

nanza district, the probabilities are that capitalists will be more than usually timid about investing in its prospect holes, and will pass by Cœur d'Alene to place their money in some one of the many older districts, whose ledges have been worked sufficiently to remove the element of speculation—as much as it is possible to eliminate that element from the business of quartz mining. If this very natural result should follow, the owners of this choice collection of prospect holes can lay the blame upon the shoulders of the newspapers published in the mines and adjacent towns, the too eager business men, the cloud of real estate speculators, and every one who, for a financial consideration, or to create a temporary business activity, aided in promoting the gigantic fraud by which so much physical suffering and financial distress were caused to thousands of deluded people. It is to be hoped, but, alas, hardly to be expected, that the history of this excitement will serve as a useful lesson, to be heeded by all who may be brought within the influence of another mining craze. A fatal charm attends it, whose power is almost irresistible when exerted upon those strange to its influences, and is absolutely so with those who have surrendered themselves to it for years. Man is a reasoning animal—so it is said, though there often seems a dearth of evidence to support the statement—but at times this power is manifested in peculiar and unaccountable ways, so peculiar, in fact, that its manifestation at all may well be questioned. Mining excitements and all forms of speculative allurements, where the desire to acquire wealth quickly creates an abnormal action of the reasoning power and diverts it into strange and erratic channels, should receive the prompt and earnest discouragement of every one interested in the stability of business and permanent welfare of the country. We hope to see less of them in the future.

#### SCIENCE IN THE ARCTIC.

At last the full extent of the sacrifice demanded by the grim Moloch of the North Pole has been made known to the millions who have anxiously waited for the result of Commander Schley's efforts to rescue the unfortunate party of Lieutenant Greely. He has been robbed of five of the victims already in his clutches while yet they had sufficient vitality remaining in their famished bodies to bring them back to health and strength. And what has been accomplished of sufficient value to compensate for the score of lives that were laid down in the effort to gain it? The verdict of the great majority of humanity will be, "Nothing in the least degree worthy so great a sacrifice." On the contrary, the scientific enthusiast will point to what, in his eyes, are glorious achievements. Grinnell Land was found to be a comparatively narrow strip, to the west of which lies another, now bearing the name of "Arthur." North of Grinnell Land they approached within 430 miles of the point where all lines of longitude are supposed to meet, and from an elevation of 2,000 feet on Lockwood Island discovered that to the north and west was a vast sea of ice, while to the north-east the continent of Greenland still extended northward

beyond the line of vision. At two points, in 1883, neither of them as far north as Lockwood Island, the open polar ocean was encountered, the sea whose rolling billows had been before observed, though only at a distance, and the existence of which has been a mooted question among scientists for years. Full and accurate meteorological, astronomical and botanical observations and researches were made and the records preserved intact. From a scientific point of view Lieutenant Greely has accomplished much. We know a little more about the geography of a region universally conceded to be uninhabitable by human beings relying entirely upon the resources of the country for subsistence, and valueless to the world for all practical purposes; and this has been learned at the sacrifice of much human life and suffering and the expenditure of large sums of money. Yet it is not to be presumed that these facts will serve in the least to prevent the further waste of life. On the contrary, new interest in the Borean regions will be aroused; the zeal of would-be explorers will be whetted; other vessels will sail Poleward, to be crushed in the ice and engulfed with their load of human beings in the frigid waters of the Arctic; disease, famine and exposure will claim their victims by the score. Thus it has been from the first, and will continue forever among enlightened nations. The desire to accomplish something never before attempted, to achieve success where others have failed, or to discover something "new under the sun," is one of the most potent motives to exertion among a progressive people. When it ceases so to be, stagnation sets in and advancement towards a higher plane ceases.

There is one feature of these latest developments which is of peculiar interest. The open polar sea was encountered by two parties in different longitudes. One of these drifted for a day upon that mysterious ocean, and only regained the land by abandoning nearly its entire outfit. It is evident that the advocates of the "Symmes' Hole" theory will receive fresh encouragement from this proof, not only that an open sea exists in the vicinity of the theoretical pole, but that a current sets in towards that great longitudinal center. The discussion of the question, "Is the earth solid or hollow?" will probably be resumed with much enthusiasm by those who hold opposing views on the subject. This expedition, much as it has learned, has discovered nothing to prove there is not a continuous waterway into the interior of the earth by way of the North Pole; but, on the contrary, has established the existence of that open sea which has been pointed to as one of the greatest evidences that such is the case. The existence of a milder climate and a sea devoid of ice, north of that region which is perpetually bound in icy chains, has yet to be satisfactorily explained. This is now the riddle for future explorers to solve, and there need be no anxiety felt lest there be no one willing to attempt its solution. Sufficient cause for anxiety will appear when the time again comes for half a dozen of these venturesome explorers to be rescued from the perils into which they so eagerly rush.