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Robert F. Scott

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The Voyage of the *Discovery*

VOLUME 1

ROBERT F. SCOTT
ILLUSTRATED BY E.A. WILSON



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OF
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VOL. I.

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Emery Walker Ph. Sc.

Discovery

London. Smith, Elder & Co. 15, Waterloo Place.

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THE VOYAGE OF THE 'DISCOVERY'

BY CAPTAIN ROBERT F. SCOTT
C.V.O., R.N.

WITH 260 FULL-PAGE AND SMALLER ILLUSTRATIONS BY DR. E. A. WILSON
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION, PHOTOGRAVURE
FRONTISPICES, 12 COLOURED PLATES IN FACSIMILE
FROM DR. WILSON'S SKETCHES,
PANORAMAS AND MAPS

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1905

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TO
SIR CLEMENTS MARKHAM, K.C.B., F.R.S.
THE FATHER OF THE EXPEDITION
AND ITS MOST CONSTANT FRIEND

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PREFACE

STRANGE as it may seem, the greater part of this story had been enacted before I realised that it would devolve on me to narrate it in book form.

When first I saw vaguely this unwelcome task before me there was fresh in my mind not only the benefit which we had derived from studying the records of former Polar voyages, but the disappointment which we had sometimes suffered from the insufficient detail which they provided. It appeared to me in consequence that the first object in writing an account of a Polar voyage was the guidance of future voyagers; the first duty of the writer was to his successors.

I have done my best to keep this object in view, and I give this explanation because I am conscious that it has led me into descriptive detail which will probably be tiresome to the ordinary reader. As, however, such matter is more or less massed into certain portions of the book, I take comfort from reflecting that the interested reader will have no difficulty in avoiding such parts as he may consider tedious.

I have endeavoured to avoid the use of technicalities, but in all cases this has not been possible, as the English

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language is poor in words descriptive of conditions of ice and snow. I take the opportunity, therefore, of defining some technical words that I have used freely.

Névé—the packed snow of a snow-field, an accumulation of minute ice-crystals. This word is, of course, well known to mountaineers.

Nunatak—an island of bare land in a snow-field. Where an ice-sheet overlies the land, the summits of hills thrust through the sheet present this appearance.

Sastrugus—an irregularity formed by the wind on a snow-plain. 'Snow-wave' is not completely descriptive, as the sastrugus has often a fantastic shape unlike the ordinary conception of a wave.

Ice-foot—properly applied to the low fringe of ice formed about Polar lands by the sea-spray. I have used the term much more widely, and perhaps improperly, in referring to the banks of ice of varying height which skirt many parts of the Antarctic shores, and which have no connection with sea-spray. Mr. Ferrar gives some description of these in his remarks on ice in Appendix I.

Beyond explaining these few words I make no apology for the style or absence of style of this book; I have tried to tell my tale as simply as possible, and I launch it with the confidence that my readers will be sufficiently indulgent to its faults in remembering the literary inexperience of its writer.

For me the compilation of these pages has been so weighty a matter that I must always feel the keenest gratitude to those who assisted me in the task. I cannot think that the manuscript would ever have been com-

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pleted but for the advice and encouragement I received from its publisher, nor can I forget to thank Sir Clements Markham and other friends for hints and criticisms by which I profited, and Mr. Leonard Huxley for his judicious provision of the 'hooks and eyes' to many a random sentence. How much I owe to the artist, Dr. Wilson, and others of my comrades who are responsible for the originals of the illustrations, will be evident.

R. F. S.

August 28th, 1905.

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