



## Antarctic expedition

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To cite this article: James Geikie (1899) Antarctic expedition, Scottish Geographical Magazine, 15:5, 256-256, DOI: [10.1080/00369229908733053](https://doi.org/10.1080/00369229908733053)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00369229908733053>



Published online: 27 Feb 2008.



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## ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

IN October of last year this *Magazine* issued a Special Antarctic Number, in which the scientific advantages of an Antarctic expedition were fully set forth by Sir John Murray and others. It was pointed out that to do the work creditably, £100,000 at least would be required. An appeal made to its members by the Royal Geographical Society of London was responded to by subscriptions amounting to some £13,000 only, including, however, two handsome subscriptions of £5000 each. With this inadequate sum it was hopeless to think of fitting out an expedition from this country, and it seemed probable that the glory of exploring the greatest unknown area on the globe would be left to Germany alone. Fortunately, Mr. Llewellyn Longstaff's munificent gift of £25,000 made it possible for the President of the London Society to return a favourable reply to the inquiry in Baron von Richthofen's letter as to whether England would be prepared to join with Germany in 1901<sup>1</sup> in attacking the many unsolved problems of the Antarctic regions. The sum available (about £40,000) is, however, far short of what is necessary to provide a properly equipped expedition. It may suffice to fit out one ship in a modest way, but two ships, at least, are required—adequately supplied with material and men, including, of course, a trained scientific staff. Here, then, is an opportunity for patriotic Scotsmen! In Germany, every one, from the Emperor downwards, will do what can be done to make their expedition complete and a credit to the fatherland. We cannot afford to do less, and it is to be hoped that some wealthy Scotsman or Scotsmen will come forward to emulate the munificence of Mr. Longstaff, so that the expedition which leaves our shores next year may be one in every way worthy of a country which has so great a reputation to maintain.

JAMES GEIKIE.

<sup>1</sup> The German expedition is postponed to 1901, and the British expedition will in all probability set out the same year, if the necessary funds (not less than £80,000) are obtained.