

your life at home, too, though, perhaps, not quite so easily as here. But if a man was always to be thinking about that he would never do anything.'

"That's true. Anyhow, he would not need to come on an expedition like this. But remember that a journey northward over the ice would be no child's play.'

"No, I know that well enough, but if it was with you I shouldn't be afraid. It would never do if we had to manage alone. We'd be sure to go wrong; but it's quite a different thing, you see, when there is one to lead that you know has been through it all before.'

"It is extraordinary the blind faith such men have in their leader! I believe they would set off without a moment's reflection if they were asked to join in an expedition to the Pole now, with black winter at the door. It is grand as long as the faith lasts, but God be merciful to him on the day that it fails!

"Saturday, September 15th. This evening we have seen the moon again for the first time—beautiful full moon—and a few stars were also visible in the night sky, which is still quite light.

"Notices were posted up to-day in several places. They ran as follows:

"As fire here on board might be followed by the most terrible consequences, too great precaution cannot be taken. For this reason every man is requested to observe the following rules *most conscientiously*: