

assembled on June 19 at the house of the Prince of Monaco to listen to a paper read by M. Charles Rénard, a member of the permanent committee of the International Naval Association, on a new scheme for a polar expedition. M. Bénard holds that only two kinds of exploration in the polar basin are at present rational—namely, annual explorations along the perimeter of the Arctic Circle, like that of the Prince of Monaco in Red Bay or that of Greely in Port Conger Bay, or else great expeditions well within the Polar Sea, with special boats fitted up as observatories and laboratories, solid enough to resist the ice pack, and capable of carrying provisions for the length of time required by the itinerary. M. Bénard explained at length why the only feasible and rational route of penetration of the Polar Sea is one a little north of that followed by the *Fram*. The expedition ought to start from a Norwegian port, cross the southern portion of Barents Sea, take in dogs at Karabora, coast along Yalmal, ship at Port Dickson its coal, transported thither by special steamer, pass at the end of the summer along the Peninsula of Taimyr, arrive by the end of the autumn at the islands of New Siberia, and then, instead of going northward, as did the *Fram*, manage at all costs, even if it be necessary to winter in the Liakhoff or Bennett Islands, to reach a point on the 150th degree of east longitude. Thence the ship or ships need only drift with the ice. M. Bénard urged the utility of having the expedition composed of two vessels in touch with each other by means of wireless telegraphy. The expedition should take three years, but be provisioned for five. It would not cost more than \$300,000. The company signed a memorandum declaring this expedition to be of scientific utility.

It is stated in the London *Times* that the man-lifting kite, as invented by Mr. Cody, has during the last few days been subjected to further trials at Aldershot with the view of testing its feasibility and usefulness for observation purposes in war time. The main features claimed for the kite are, first, its extreme simplicity and the ease with which the various component parts required to work it can be transported from place to place; and,

secondly, that it can be flown in heavy wind such as would render the use of the war balloon almost impossible. A number of Royal Engineers are now under instruction in the working of the kite in order that it may be thoroughly tested.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MRS. HENRY WHITMAN, of Boston, has made public bequests aggregating more than \$200,000, including \$110,000 to Radcliffe College and \$10,000 to Harvard University.

MR. GEORGE EHRET, of New York, has given \$10,000 to the permanent fund of Hamilton College.

THE Secretary of the Interior has approved the application of the board of trustees of the Columbian University of Washington to change the name of that institution to the George Washington University.

DR. C. ALPHONSO SMITH, professor of English literature at the University of North Carolina, has been elected president of the University of Tennessee, succeeding Dr. Charles W. Dabney, who has become president of the University of Cincinnati.

PROFESSOR GEORGE S. WILLIAMS, of the College of Civil Engineering, in Cornell University, has resigned to accept the chair of civil engineering in the University of Michigan, made vacant by the death of Professor Greene.

CARL C. THOMAS, instructor in marine engineering at the University of California, has accepted a call to Cornell University to the assistant professorship in marine engineering at Sibley College. He will succeed Professor William F. Durand, principal of the graduate school in marine engineering, who has been called to Stanford University.

DR. T. F. NICHOLS has been appointed professor of applied mathematics at Hamilton College.

DR. C. C. STEWART, of the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed professor of physiology at Dartmouth College. At the same institution C. A. Holden, in mathematics, and G. R. Lyman, in botany, have been appointed to assistant professorships.