

## A COMPANION OF NANSEN.

### ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC COMPARED.

Captain Johannsen, whose title, by the way, is a military, not a naval one, as he is a captain in the Norwegian Army, has, like other members of Captain Amundsen's expedition, travelled far and wide in Arctic regions in addition to his more recent Antarctic experiences, having been Nansen's companion in his furthest North trip. Questioned yesterday regarding the relative difficulties of Arctic and Antarctic travelling, Captain Johannsen said:—"There is really no comparison. As far as my experience goes, it is far and away easier to travel in the Antarctic. As you know, I was one of the eastern party which went to King Edward Land. We had no hardships and difficulties anything like those which Nansen and I met with in the far North. In the Arctic the ice is all sea, and it is broken by water lanes and weak places, which have to be avoided, while often the surface is very rough. In the south the ice is solid land ice, with a good hard surface, and with dogs and skis you can go along splendidly, and feel that every yard you go is a yard towards your goal. There is no twisting and turning. Our trip to King Edward Land was really a pleasure trip."

Of course you know Nansen well. Is Amundsen anything like him? Captain Johannsen was asked.

"Well," he replied, "I know Nansen as well as one man can know another. He and Amundsen have many points in common, and both are born explorers with great powers of endurance."

You have been exploring for many years now, and must have seen much of polar regions, was the next remark.

"Yea," said Captain Johannsen, "I went with Nansen in the Fram on her first voyage, in 1893, and I have seen much of the Arctic since that. I have been along the Siberian coast—and a terrible, desolate coast it is. I have been exploring in Spitzbergen and Franz Josef Land, and away with Nansen over the Polar ice. And now I have been away to the south, and I think that, for the time being, anyway, I have done enough, and will go home to Norway."

Asked what Nansen was like in appearance, Captain Johannsen said—"He was taller than I a good deal, but hardly as broad a man. I remember when he introduced me to the Duke of Abruzzi, now holding a command in the Italian fleet in the Turco-Italian war, the latter said:—"Why, I thought from his photographs Captain Johannsen was taller than that." "No," replied Nansen, "he isn't very tall, not as tall as I am, but, then, he is very nearly square."