

What ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> called The Spirit of Adventure I No. 1926

What is it that drives men from their comfortable homes into the gloomy depths of the jungle, or the uncharted wastes of the Arctic? Some adventure forth to <sup>win</sup> ~~seek~~ new realms for England, or to plant the British flag on some spot never before trodden by the foot of man. These are the true adventurers, who, with no hope of gain, set out, and leave all they love behind them. Then there are those whom the mad desire for money drives onward, until at <sup>last</sup> length they <sup>find</sup> reach some mine in an unknown land. And thirdly, there are those who cannot remain at home, but who feel a craving (tugging at their hearts) to go out

and explore. But is not this longing<sup>I</sup>  
common to all of us? When we read of the  
adventures of old, do we not all of us, at  
some time, long to go out and follow in  
their footsteps? But we cannot all discover  
continents or explore Arctic wastes. And  
so we have our least adventures;  
the small child climbs to the top of  
a high cupboard, and thus satisfies  
his longing for adventure; and then  
the boy perhaps climbs the steps, or  
hunts for birds' eggs on some rocky  
crag; and finally the man, who  
perhaps goes out to war, and does  
some daring deed; or, if he have  
higher ideals, he may explore the poles.

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or try to be the first to plant the <sup>III</sup> British  
flag on the summit of Mt. Everest.

Is this desire to be encouraged? If  
we had been content to stay at home,  
each caring only about the life of  
his little village, what would America

No: it would have been found  
have been? Only prairie-land, peopled  
by a few warlike Indian tribes. Or  
Australia, if Tasmann and Cook had  
not sailed round it, and discovered  
good places for a colony? To these  
adventurous men, and many others too,  
we owe our knowledge of the distant  
lands. Now, we may say, it is no  
adventure to travel to India, but it

was these men who made it possible <sup>to</sup>  
to go there easily, by charting the seas  
in their voyages of exploration. What is  
the use of fitting out elaborate expeditions,  
in order to be the first to reach  
the top of Mount Everest? There  
is no likelihood of any riches being  
found there, and no one could live  
in cold such as that. Surely it  
is because we admire the adventures  
of old, and like to show that our  
nation at least has kept alive a  
few sparks of the old fire. Though  
many men fall in causes such  
as this, it is a good thing to

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go on with this form of exploration, for it keeps up the ~~standard~~ respect of other countries for England, and is an example to our people, of courage and devotion to that country.

Adventure may take many forms. We may desire to explore Central Asia, or to sail across the Atlantic in a small boat. But there do these or other similar things to satisfy the craving to get out of the ordinary <sup>routine of life</sup> course of things, for a short time at least, and to indulge in the spirit of Adventure.

Of course we do not all feel

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this longing. There are some who are quite content to dwell in peace in their quiet homes, and who most desire to adventure forth into the world. These people may be happy and contented, but they cannot feel the joy and pleasure of adventure. They are not the sort who founded out colonies, or started trade in far-off lands.

There are some motives for adventure, which on the outside, do not seem in the least praiseworthy. Take for example, the Pilgrim Fathers. They, being discontented with

affairs at home, decided to live <sup>VI</sup> in America. But the Spirit of Adventure must have been strong within them for, if it had not been, they would have stayed at home, and those stirred up discontent.

And so we see that there are many motives which awaken this desire, but whether they are good or bad, the result is nearly always good.

But in the lesser forms of adventure, even if the excitement be only for a few weeks, when we return to work, we feel refreshed and pleased.

So, even in these small examples, <sup>viii</sup> the Spirit of Adventure does us good.

If we do not satisfy this longing, we may become restless and irritable. And so it is a good thing to go out and have excitement for a short time, and come back to work refreshed.

To sum up, it was this spirit of Adventure which helped to found out colonies, and which, if we allow it, helps to refresh us in our holidays.

And let us be truly thankful for those men who have set out



into the unknown, both in the <sup>IV</sup> Middle Ages and in modern times. For it is these people who have made our empire what it is, the greatest in the World. And all this through the spirit of adventure.

"We sailed wher'er ship could sail  
We founded many a mighty state,  
Pray God our greatness may not fail,  
Through craven fears of being great."

Tennyson.

First Part.

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