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Climatic barriers! Explorers of old were not afraid of oceans and mountains because of their breadth and height. They were stopped by the terrors of climate. The ocean, which could have been crossed, has its contrary winds, terrific hurricanes, calms, opaque fogs, and treacherous icebergs. High mountain chains could hardly be scaled because of the nipping cold, blinding storms, glaciers, and deceptive snow fields which any moment might become destructive avalanches. Deserts have their sliding sands and choking, smothering winds. The wet tropics were impassable, due to jungles and fever. And the polar regions presented impassable fields of snow and broken ice, and extreme cold.
