

“ ‘278. Captain *Scobell*.] In suggesting the very proper reward of a medal for the navigators in the Arctic Ocean, do not you think that if given at all, it ought to be extended to the officers, and to every seaman?—I meant it so.

“ ‘279. Sir *T. Acland*.] You alluded also to higher honours as being due to some among them?—Yes; if I may be allowed to extend my wish, I should include another naval captain, who though he did not make the passage, did it in part. I mean Captain *Inglefield*, whose voyage I have always thought very remarkable in exploring to a more northern point than any one else in search of Sir John Franklin. Looking at the whole case, we geographers have but one feeling, which is that of admiration of all the gentlemen who have been employed in this search.

“ ‘280. Mr. *Ellice*.] You think it very desirable that in every case a medal should be given to all those officers and men?—Unquestionably. I am of opinion that all the seamen, as well as the officers, should receive an Arctic medal. I further think that all the explorers in search of Franklin, whether by land or by water, and whether they be in Her Majesty's service or not, should be honoured with an Arctic medal. Such men as *Rae*, *Penny*, *Kennedy*, *Stewart*, *Sutherland*, and others, should not be omitted; and I would suggest that the American officers, *De Haven*, *Kane*, &c., who have aided so zealously in the search, should also have the same honours.’ ”

Proposed Report read 2^o paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1 read, amended, and agreed to.

Motion made (Mr. *Gordon*) to insert following paragraphs:—

“That the attempt to discover a water communication through the Arctic Regions between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, is one which has engaged the attention of maritime nations, and especially that of Great Britain, for a period now extending over nearly three centuries. It has fallen to the lot of Captain *M'Clure*, his officers and crew, to set at rest this question. They are undoubtedly the first who have passed by water from sea to sea, and have returned to this country a living evidence of the existence of a North-west Passage.

“Rewards for the discovery of a North-west Passage have more than once been offered by Parliament. Successive Sovereigns have encouraged the enterprise, and men of science have, through succeeding generations, urged the attempt. In the earliest Arctic voyages no doubt a hope was entertained that the North-west Passage would open a safe and speedy route to India; but this idea was speedily abandoned, and for a long series of years the advancement of natural science and the extension of our knowledge of the globe appear to have been the sole incentives of these expeditions, which, sullied by no lust of conquest or selfish views, must ever be considered among the most disinterested of national undertakings; they have served to bring forward some of the best officers and bravest seamen in the British Navy, and have added greatly to the lustre of that service of which our maritime nation is so justly proud. With reference to the services of Captain *M'Clure* in the expedition, the circumstances of which Your Committee have been desired to investigate, the evidence adduced enables Your Committee to present the following concise account of the movements of Captain *M'Clure*, after the arrival in the Arctic Seas of Her Majesty's ship ‘*Investigator*’ under his command.”

Question, “That these paragraphs be inserted in the proposed Report,” put, and agreed to.

Several paragraphs read, amended, and agreed to.

The following paragraph read:—“Independently of the discovery of a North-west Passage, which has been for some centuries an object of perilous search by many, and of deep interest to the world at large, Captain *M'Clure* has contributed upwards of 2,000 miles of coast line, where a blank previously existed on our charts.”

Amendment proposed (Mr. *Butt*), To strike out the paragraph, and insert the following instead thereof:—

“The evidence places beyond doubt that to Captain *M'Clure* incontestably belongs the distinguished honour of having been the first to perform the actual passage over water along the Northern Coast of America, between the two great oceans that encircle the globe. By this achievement he has demonstrated the existence, and traced the course of that connexion between these oceans, which, under the name of the North-west Passage, has so long been the object of perilous search and deep interest to the nations of the civilised world.

“In addition to the completion of a North-west Passage, Captain *M'Clure* has explored about 2,000 miles of coast line, where a blank has hitherto existed in our charts.

“In the accomplishment of this exploit, Captain *M'Clure* exhibited those high qualities of enterprise, heroism, and endurance, which have indeed been the common characteristics of the brave navigators who have carried the researches of British adventure far beyond the confines of the frozen seas, which at one time seemed inaccessible, even to the skill and courage of British seamen. Ample and honourable testimony has been borne before Your Committee

Committee