

their proceedings and future intentions, for the information of Lieutenant Franklin, who had been sent on a land expedition to explore that coast from the mouth of the Copper Mine River of Hearne.

Before beginning the narrative, it may be observed, that the search for a North-West Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, commenced with Henry VII., was warmly patronised by Elizabeth, and has never been entirely laid aside in succeeding reigns ; and if the expedition did not completely attain its object, yet it can never cease to be a source of exultation, that the honour of the discovery of an open passage from Baffin's Bay into the Polar sea was reserved for the British navy.

According to the official instructions, the interests of science were not neglected, many important facts were made out ; amongst the most curious, it may be mentioned, that it appears to be proved that the North Pole is not the coldest point of the Arctic hemisphere, but that the place where the expedition wintered is one of the coldest spots on the face of the globe. The position of the Magnetic Pole, if not precisely ascertained, would appear most probably to be about latitude 72° in longitude 100° W.

Of objects of natural history, the specimens brought home are more varied and of a more interesting description than might have been supposed to exist in the dreary regions in which they