

voted \$50,000 to meet the expenses of the expedition. Preparations were rapidly pushed forward; and on the 26th of June 1871, Captain Hall was received by the American Geographical Society at New York. On this occasion, Mr. Grinnell, the generous promoter of expeditions for the search of Franklin, presented Hall with the flag which, in 1838, had been with Wilkes to the Antarctic regions, and which had since been in the Northern Polar seas with DeHaven, Kane and Hayes. "Now I give it to you, sir," said Mr. Grinnell, "take it to the North Pole, and bring it back in a year from next October."

The "Polaris" was not a vessel adapted for such a daring undertaking as this, being deficient in steam-power, and far inferior, in her capabilities of battling with the ice-floes, to a Dundee whaling steamer, or one of the Newfoundland steam sealing fleet. No naval officer accompanied the expedition, and the want of naval discipline on board proved to be one of the greatest drawbacks to success. Captain Hall was left to select his own crew, and did the best he could under the circumstances. Not being himself a seaman, he took with him, as sailing master, Captain S. O. Buddington, a native of New London, Connecticut, who had previously made thirteen whaling voyages to Baffin's Bay; and as assistant navigator, Captain G. E. Tyson, who had also been for some years engaged in the whale-fishery. These men had much experience in navigation amid the dangers of ice-covered seas, but could hardly be expected to share in their leader's enthusiasm for reaching the North Pole. Mr. Chester, the mate, was an able seaman and an excellent harpooner. Captain Hall, however, was fortunate enough to secure the services of Dr. Bessels, as head of the scientific department of the expedition—a man of high attainments as a naturalist, and a Doctor of Medicine, who had served in the same capacity in the German Arctic Expedition of 1869, and now entered heart and soul into this enterprize. With him were associated Mr. Meyer as meteorologist, and Mr. Bryan as assistant astronomer—both men of scientific attainments, and well qualified for their duties. Looking at the whole organization of the expedition, and especially at the manifest deficiency in discipline and control, few felt, at the outset, any sanguine hopes of success, and many pronounced the enterprise ill-judged and the offspring of wild enthusiasm. The results, however, far exceeded the expectations of friends, and falsified the doleful predictions of foes; and