

be added, not anywhere within five hundred miles. If Sir John Franklin had wished to retreat to any known region on the American side, nothing could surely have hindered him from doing so. It is well known that sledge parties have travelled distances of nearly one thousand miles during one winter, and Sir John Ross, after four years' imprisonment in the ice, and with a force of only twenty-four men, greatly reduced by hardships and trials, travelled at least five hundred miles, partly by land and partly by water, from the point where he abandoned his vessel to that where he was released.

The fact that no less than fifteen expeditions, consisting of thirty vessels besides the boats, had failed in their main object, prompted me a short time back to draw attention to a portion of the Arctic regions which has remained entirely neglected, and to suggest a plan of search through the Spitzbergen Sea, that great ocean between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya. I adduced reasons to show that that sea would probably offer the best route, and demonstrated that its exploration was a most important desideratum in a commercial and geographical point of view. As my plan is already before the public*, it is unnecessary to detail it here. If

* The various communications in connection with my plan, an outline of which was first submitted to the public in the 'Athenæum' of the 17th of January, 1852, are as follows:—

1. The Search for Franklin. Illustrated by a Polar Chart. London, Longmans. (May 15. 1852.)
2. Notes on the Distribution of Animals available as Food in the Arctic Regions. (Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London, 1852, vol. xxii.)
3. Sir John Franklin, the Navigableness of the Spitzbergen Sea, and the Whale-fisheries in the Arctic Regions. (A paper read at the