

Good Hope. Many brave and daring men have spent much time and suffered much hardship in this undertaking, foremost among whom stands the lamented Sir John Franklin, an account of whose death, after lengthened agony and privation, has lately reached us. A passage has been discovered by Captain McClure, but it is found to answer no practical end. It would seem as though, for some unknown purpose, the Almighty had decreed, "Thus far shalt thou come but no farther."

The Atlantic Ocean rolls in the great valley which separates the eastern shores of America from the western coast of Europe and Africa. This portion of the great deep is the best known of any, as the highway of the world's commerce, perpetually traversed by thousands of merchant vessels, in which millions of property and thousands of lives are embarked. It is the most fickle sea that the mariner can trust his barque upon, for it is composed of successive regions of steady breezes and calms, the latter interrupted by sudden and short squalls and enormous deluges of rain towards the equator, generally descending in a perfectly still state of the atmosphere. I have seen evidences of this myself, for I have been upon this mighty ocean at all seasons of the year; I have been exposed alike to the heat of summer and the cold of winter, and the storms of spring and fall, and never have experienced the same state of weather in making a voyage across. I have crossed in the winter, and found the sea as tranquil as a sheet of glass, and at the same season of the year have seen the deck inches thick in ice and snow. I have risen in the morning in a perfect calm, not a ripple on the water, and I have gone to sleep at night in a perfect hurricane. It is extremely dangerous, from the vast quantities of drift ice and icebergs that are met with at certain seasons of the year. The Indian Ocean has no distinct character excepting its hurricanes and monsoons, or periodical wind storms. The Pacific was so named because, when *first discovered*, it presented a very calm and pacific appearance.

The ocean is subject to three distinct general movements, of waves, tides and currents, the causes of which are independent. The wave movement is of an inconsistent and transitory character, occasioned by the winds; that of the tides is regular and periodical, the result of the attractive influence of the moon modified by that of the sun; while the currents are the effect of various circumstances, and permanently flowing resemble great rivers in