

After the publication of the main narrative of the expedition, my own memoranda appeared too insignificant to justify the issue of a separate volume. My friends and other persons represented to me, from time to time, that even minute details of life in a region so remote, so peculiar, and so little known as that in which I had passed nearly a third of a year, would not fail to interest the general reader; but it needed a stronger inducement than such persuasions to overcome my reluctance to issue a book.

Having undertaken to conduct another expedition toward the North Pole, as soon as my countrymen will furnish the moderate outfit required for this object, my time and efforts have been exclusively devoted to the necessary preliminary measures. My experienced publishers having encouraged me to believe, not only that a somewhat extended report of the incidents of the journey of 1854 would be acceptable to the public, but also that it would probably contribute towards the expenses of my preparations, I have yielded to the temptation offered by their favourable judgment, and their liberal readiness to assume the risk of the press.

Beside the foregoing explanation of the motives which have led to the issuing of the following pages, the reader is requested to bear in mind that they contain a record chiefly of personal adventure, the interest of which is dependent, for the most part upon the strangeness of the place and circumstances.

I. I. H.

PHILADELPHIA: January 1, 1860.