

and Simpson, by perilous journeys overland, we are chiefly indebted for what we know of the western half of the frigid zone, and their names will ever adorn the pages of Arctic history. But the return of both navigators and travellers still left the great and perplexing question unsolved.

As if Great Britain could not have sent out an expedition to each of the two poles of the earth at one and the same time, the north pole was again forgotten, while Sir James Clark Ross was engaged in a most interesting voyage in the Antarctic seas. The success of that voyage, and the safe return of the two ships the "Erebus" and "Terror" after surmounting dangers said to be unparalleled in the north, were hailed as the harbingers of equally decisive achievements, where the skill and intrepidity of the same navigator had to a certain extent been vainly exerted. Scarcely had the heat, received in the tropics, escaped from their huge timbers, thick doublings, and powerfully fortified bows, when they began to undergo all due preparation for service under the command of Sir John Franklin. Well fitted out in everything necessary for the voyage, provisioned for somewhat more than three years, and with crews, including men and officers, amounting