

APPENDIX.

LETTER OF PROF. JOS. HENRY.

(President of the National Academy of Sciences.)

WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC OPERATIONS OF THE EXPEDITION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 9, 1871.*

SIR: In accordance with the law of Congress authorizing the expedition for explorations within the Arctic Circle, the scientific operations are to be prescribed by the National Academy; and in behalf of this society I respectfully submit the following remarks and suggestions:

The appropriation for this expedition was granted by Congress principally on account of the representations of Captain Hall and his friends as to the possibility of improving our knowledge of the geography of the regions beyond the eightieth degree of north latitude, and more especially of reaching the Pole. Probably on this account and that of the experience which Captain Hall had acquired by seven years' residence in the Arctic regions, he was appointed by the President as commander of the expedition.

In order that Captain Hall might have full opportunity to arrange his plans, and that no impediments should be put in the way of their execution, it was proper that he should have the organization of the expedition and the selection of his assistants. These privileges having been granted him, Captain Hall early appointed as the sailing-master of the expedition his friend and former fellow-voyager in the Arctic Zone, Captain Biddington, who has spent twenty-five years amid polar ice; and for the subordinate positions, persons selected especially for their experience of life in the same regions.

It is evident from the foregoing statement that the expedition, except in its relations to geographical discovery, is not of a scientific character, and to connect with it a full corps of scientific observers whose duty it should be to make minute investigations relative to the physics of the globe, and to afford them such facilities with regard to time and position as would