

North America; Davis and Baffin opened the way to a lucrative whale-fishery; and the names and exploits of these great men have added a bright page to the history of British energy, science, and adventurous spirit, which has not been surpassed even by the subsequent achievements of Franklin, Parry, and Ross.

Having brought down the account of Arctic discovery to the middle of the last century, it will not be amiss to say a few words on the Greenland Settlements themselves, the history of which is little more than a relation of the difficulties that have been undergone by those who endeavoured to sow the seed of Christianity among the wretched natives who surrounded them. It is sometimes found that pure philanthropy will induce a high-souled man to forsake the comforts and conveniences of civilized life, and, actuated by religious zeal and the desire of propagating a sublime and holy creed, to brave every kind of hardship and danger. Such a man was Hans Egede, a clergyman of Vogen in Norway, who, hearing of the wretched state of the Greenlanders, moral and physical, was induced to exert himself for their benefit; after fruitlessly striving for ten years to awaken a similar zeal among his countrymen, he at length induced the King to sanction his undertaking a mission to Greenland. Accompanied by his wife and four children, with forty other persons, this disinterested man sailed from Bergen in 1721, and after