

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ON THE
EXPLORATION OF THE NORTH POLAR BASIN;

WITH A RÉSUMÉ OF RECENT SWEDISH, GERMAN, AND AUSTRIAN ATTEMPTS TO
REACH THE POLAR CIRCLE FROM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. BY CAPTAIN
SHERARD OSBORN, R.N., C.B.

A Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society on the 22nd April, 1872.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED A

PAPER ON THE EXPLORATION OF THE NORTH POLAR REGION,

*Read by the same Author, before the Royal Geographical Society,
on the 23rd January, 1865.*

AT the Tenth Evening Meeting of the Session 1871-2 of the Royal Geographical Society, held on the 22nd April, 1872, after the routine business had been transacted, the following Paper 'On the Exploration of the North Polar Basin,' was read by Capt. Sherard Osborn :—

Our able and indefatigable secretary, Mr. Clements Markham, has recently, in a valuable Memorandum, called the attention of the President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society to the necessity of public interest, in this country, being again directed to a scientific exploration of the 1,131,000 square miles of the globe's surface, which still lie unexplored around the northern pole of our earth. It will be in the recollection of the members of this Society that, in 1865, I read a paper on this subject, and therein to the best of my ability, urged the necessity, on many grounds, for an exploration of the Polar basin, and set forth the arguments in favour of reaching that unknown area by way of Baffin Bay and Smith Sound.

That route, it is maintained, is the one which two hundred and odd years of experience have given to British navigators and explorers the best assurance of reaching the 80th degree of north latitude, with the greatest certainty, and smallest amount of risk, to ship and life.