

were despatched to the Greenland seas, under the command of Captain Buchan, and Lieutenant, now Captain, Sir John Franklin, K. C. H., who, in command of Her Majesty's ships "Erebus" and "Terror," has been unheard of for nearly seven long years.

This renewal of Arctic discovery, undertaken so boldly, proved signally unsuccessful, and for a moment its strenuous advocates appeared to be reaping an undue share of scorn. Yet they held on their course; and, as if by an expiring struggle, one more attempt to effect a "northwest passage" was to be permitted. Parry's first voyage, successful beyond measure, and still unequalled by subsequent Arctic voyagers, added new vigour to the frail efforts of our geographers, and illuminated with fresh hopes the drooping countenances of those who had long expected that the western hemisphere would be circumnavigated beyond the 67th parallel of north latitude. Expedition followed expedition into the polar regions; by little and little (but at great expense, and no small danger) the maps of these countries had considerable additions made to them; and the physical features of Arctic America became well known through the medium of not a few well-read volumes. To Parry, Beechey, Ross, Lyon, and Sabine, by navigation, and to Franklin, Richardson, Back, Dease,

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