

I.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

TO THE

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER,

AND THE

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.

1, SAVILE ROW, W.

December 16th, 1872.

ON behalf of the Royal Geographical Society, I have the honour respectfully to request that you will bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Government the reasons which make it desirable to despatch, next year, a naval expedition with the object of exploring the unknown region around the North Pole.

I herewith submit the opinion of a Committee of Arctic officers appointed this year by our Council to consider the subject of an Arctic Expedition, as well as the views expressed by the Royal Society, the Geological Society, the Linnæan Society, the Scottish Meteorological Society, the Meteorological Department, and the Anthropological Institute; including the valuable remarks of Dr. J. D. Hooker, C.B., F.R.S., and of Dr. Carpenter, F.R.S., the President of the British Association.

The collective evidence of these seamen and men of science will, I trust, leave no doubt with regard to the value and importance of the results which a well-appointed expedition must yield, in exploring nearly two million square miles of unknown ground within the 80th parallel of north latitude. Such an expedition ought to lead to the solution of the numerous important scientific