

Arctic experience, that the outpour of Polar ice is too heavy and continuous, from Gillies Land to Greenland for any ships to penetrate through it. I believe that outpour to be incessant, both summer and winter, and that sledging expeditions at any season of the year, northward from Spitzbergen, would encounter to-day the same difficulties Parry did in the summer of 1827.

With respect to the Nova Zembla Sea, there is evidently land to the northward, and the south-west gales of the Atlantic force up a body of warm water in the autumn, by which a route may be found round Nova Zembla into the open water on the Siberian coast. Indeed this is already proved to be possible by a Norwegian, Captain Mack. On these grounds, and on those already stated in my previous paper, I would again appeal to the President, Council, and Members of the Royal Geographical Society, to turn their earnest attention during this summer and autumn towards a resumption of the exploration of the Polar area, by way of Baffin Bay and Smith Sound, and by means of sledge travelling parties, such as explored so many hundreds of miles of coast-line in former years.

This route recommends itself on the three following grounds:—

First. That it is the most advanced known position towards the Polar area, with almost continuous land extending to the 82° lat. N.

Secondly. That from it, to the north-east and west, important geographical discoveries and scientific results await us.

Thirdly. That this route offers the best guarantee for the safety of the people employed in the exploration of a vast unknown area.

If the Arctic Committee now sitting under the able presidency of our distinguished and veteran Associate, Admiral Sir George Back, can show on these grounds, that Polar exploration can and ought to be carried out, I trust, for the sake of my country and profession, that our Admiralty may be induced to open to the Royal Navy, this field for glorious enterprise and national renown. The First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Goschen, in a recent speech to the House of Commons, speaking of our Navy Estimates, justly said: "It must not be supposed that all this money was spent on war, but that a great portion was spent on duties, which, notwithstanding the reputation this country had most unjustly got of pursuing a selfish policy, redounded to the benefit of the world at large as much as of our own country."

The cheers with which such a statesmanlike view of the duties of the Royal Navy was received, would, I am sure, be re-echoed throughout the length and breadth of our land; and knowing as I