

a good deal confused by leading questions. The story of the Esquimaux was that a party of thirty or forty men had been seen in King William's Land travelling southward and hauling their boats seawards. The land where the dead bodies had been found was described as a low, flat shore. Sir George Back had related that in 1833 or 1834 a gale of wind from the north had driven the water over the whole of these flats. A recurrence of this would cause any remains to be driven away. The lecturer had obtained in the spring either the crest or the initials of fourteen of the sixteen officers of both of the ships. Franklin himself had died in June or July, 1847, and in the winter of 1847-48 no less than twenty-four had died, nine of whom were officers. As but fifteen out of the one hundred men had died, the proportion of officers was very large. The Esquimaux stated that among the dead bodies they had found bones and feathers of geese, showing that the men must have been living in June, when also the snow was a good deal off the ground and the deer were going northward, so that men such as Dr. Rae's party could have got their living. Those men, however were very helpless, and not accustomed to hunt. Robert McClure, who made the northwest passage; saw hundreds of hare and ptarmigan and lots of deer, but in one month was only able to kill seven hares, though a hare is an easy thing to kill. The lecturer here illustrated with graphic minuteness the cunning of the hare and the fox in eluding their enemies, the fox even gnawing the rope which connected a bait with the trigger of a gun, or scraping the snow away so as to keep himself below the level of the gun while gnawing at the bait. The seal was also described as a very sagacious animal and its manner of preparing breathing places for itself in the ice while at the same time providing for its own concealment was described. The explorers never used any very warm clothing. They wore moleskin drawers but not so much fur as was customary here, as it would be much too heavy. In returning they met with large quantities of ice; but they had succeeded in partly accomplishing their object and his men received a reward of £10,000. Americans had two or three times done something of the same kind, but not the same thing exactly. Dr. Rae's party did not depend at all upon the Esquimaux, but killed their own food and supplied the Esquimaux with more than they got from them. Also the Americans who went up always had ships within a few days march of where they were. Capt. Hall went far away up Smith Sound, twelve or fifteen years after the lecturer returned. His account of a story among the Esquimaux concerning Capt. Crozier, the account of which corresponded with the circumstances of Dr. Rae's explorations; and he believed that he was the person meant, as the Esquimaux have no knowledge of names. In reference to the proposed Hudson's Bay route to Europe, the lecturer had every feeling of favor to this route and thought it would be a very great thing if practicable. If this country were to grow up to be as great a country as there was on America, every outlet that could be got for carrying out the produce would be advantageous. Many things, however, which had been said concerning Hudson's Bay and Straits did not all agree with his

*Hudson's Bay? certainly would*