

V. *Ethnology*.—The discovery of a sledge-runner north of the Humboldt glacier in Smith Sound, on the west side; and of people by Clavering and Sabine, on the east side, who had disappeared when the Germans visited the same spot last year; prove that human beings have wandered into the unknown area. The traditions of the Arctic Highlanders, the most northern known people, furnish evidence that they have no intercourse with the people further north. The dwellers in the unknown area have, therefore, probably been isolated for centuries. Under these circumstances their condition will offer a most important object of study for the prehistoric archaeologist. Their customs and mode of life will, in themselves, be subjects of deep interest; and their language, traditions, and methods of making dwellings, clothes, arms, tools, and utensils, may throw light upon one of the most interesting problems in the history of the spread of mankind over the earth.

VI. *Geology*.—The microscopic vegetables, which swarm in the Polar seas, contribute to the sedimentary deposits by the siliceous coating of their cells. These siliceous coats are indestructible, and being of irregular geometric forms, and the different kinds having differently and exquisitely sculptured surfaces, they may be recognised wherever found, and at all future epochs of our globe. A knowledge of the species inhabiting the northern Greenland seas would throw great light on investigations into the age of the rocks of our own island, and on the later changes of the climate of the northern hemisphere. The examination of a long extent of coast-line will yield other geological results of great value, from the collection of rocks and fossils, and the observations on glacial action.

VII. *Geodesy*.—An expedition could do much useful preliminary work in geodesy, in making a series of pendulum observations, and in registering the dip and intensity of the needle.

VIII. *Meteorology*.—Observations of the temperature of the sea at various depths; of temperature and pressure of the atmosphere; and of prevailing winds, with reference to currents, in very high latitudes, will form valuable contributions to meteorological science. It may be added that, though all previous observations for temperature at great depths have proved to be valueless, in consequence of the imperfection of the instruments, this defect has now been provided against.

IX.—In the enumeration of some of the scientific results which must certainly be secured by the discovery of the northern coast of Greenland, it should be remembered that the exploration of an unknown region will necessarily bring to light a vast number of important facts in every branch of science which cannot possibly be foreseen.

12. In addition to the harvest of results with which Arctic discovery will enrich science, and thus extend the sum of human knowledge, there are other considerations to which great weight must be attached. Another generation of naval officers will be trained in ice-navigation, a much needed field will be opened for individual enterprise, opportunities will be offered for distinction, and a great benefit will thus be conferred on the Navy, and through the Navy on the country generally. All classes of the people, it is believed, will unite with men of science in the desire that the tradition of Arctic discovery should be preserved and handed down to posterity; and that Englishmen should not abandon that career of noble adventure which has done so much to form the national character, and to give our country the rank she still maintains. An interest once very keenly shown in such enterprises may, it is believed, be easily revived.