

ported by the opinions of Captain Beaufort, hydrographer to the Admiralty, of Mr. Children, one of the secretaries of the Royal Society, and of Professor Barlow, who has made the magnetic variations his particular study, they see no reason to doubt that Captain Ross nearly approached, and that Commander Ross actually reached, the magnetic pole.

"The importance, especially to a maritime nation, of this discovery, and of the observations connected with magnetic science, arising thereout, is most highly estimated by the scientific witnesses who have been examined, and it is further attested by the zeal with which this branch of science has been of late pursued by eminent men in every country, and by the expense, which several foreign governments have of late years incurred for the same object.

"Under these circumstances your committee can have no hesitation in reporting, that a great public service has been performed. Independently of the demonstration, that one passage, which had been considered by preceding navigators to be one of the most likely to lead from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, does not exist, thus narrowing the field for future expeditions, if such should ever be undertaken; independently of the addition of between six and seven hundred miles of coast to our geographical knowledge, and of the valuable additions to magnetic science and meteorology, which this expedition will supply, your committee cannot overlook the public service which is rendered to a maritime country, especially in time of peace, by deeds of daring enterprise and patient endurance of hardship, which excite the public sympathy, and enlist the general feeling in favour of maritime adventure. Of this result they have strong evidence in the national subscription, which furnished the funds for the expedition of Captain Back in search of Captain Ross and his gallant party, to which the Government also contributed two thousand pounds.

"Under these circumstances, and looking to the advantages to science and the honour to his country which have resulted from the expedition under his command; looking to the