

Mr. Clement R. Markham, the distinguished Secretary of the British Royal Geographical Society, after commenting on the unfortunate misadventure and valuable results of the Greely expedition, expresses his firm belief that "Polar research will now continue more vigorously and wisely until this much needed scientific work has been completed."

POLAR EXPEDITIONS CONTEMPLATED AND UNDER WAY.

The Danish government expedition under Lieut. Jensen, of the Royal Navy, left in May to explore the west coast of Greenland, and is expected to return to Copenhagen in October. A similar expedition under Lieut. Holm, is about proceeding northward along the east coast of Greenland, and a third botanical and zoological expedition, under Prof. Warming, has left Denmark for West Greenland.

Through these channels we may receive additional information from the De Long records, left afloat in the direct water-breaker.

Another Danish Polar Expedition will start from Copenhagen for the frozen Northwest next summer, proceeding by the way of Franz Josef Land. It will be under the leadership of Lieut. Andreas Hovgaard, R. N. of *Vega* Expedition conjointly with Gamel.

Russia is also organizing a Polar Expedition. From St. Petersburg, under date of August 27th, 1884, we hear that the ministry of marine has issued to several learned societies a plan for a Russian Polar Expedition. The idea is to have several large parties start from Jeannette Island and proceed entirely on foot across the ice, leaving large depots of provisions in their rear. It is thought there are many islands north of Jeannette Island that could be utilized.

Lignite, suitable for fuel, is there found cropping out at the surface in large quantities, also offering facilities for manufacturing gas necessary for use in captive balloons. This is much needed for observations to determine what route to take, and for a general topographical reconnaissance.

Nordenskiöld is contemplating an expedition to explore the Antarctic continent.