

fervor of his inborn love of science far into the inhospitable north. Aided by the Hudson Bay Company, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, he penetrated the territory, then known as that of the Hudson Bay Company, to its extremest trading post, and in that year descended the Yukon from Fort Yukon nearly to the limits of Russian exploration, coming from the opposite direction.

After his return the projectors of the international telegraph, believing from repeated failures that no long ocean cable would be of permanent use, called upon him for information in regard to the possibility of a line, with a very short cable across Bering Strait, via Arctic America and Siberia. After some negotiations it was determined to explore for such a line, and Kennicott, in consideration of the opportunities for the scientific exploration of an almost unknown interior region, agreed in 1864 to direct the work in what was then Russian America. With him went a small band of young men actuated by the same spirit, or kindled by the inspiration of their leader, of whom Rothrock, Bannister, Elliott and the speaker still survive.

This expedition marked the dawn of a third era for the investigation of that region. The expedition, considered in its commercial aspect, was a failure, but the explorations it set on foot bore permanent fruit. The parties were withdrawn, in 1867, after three years of labor. The final success of the Atlantic cable rendered the project of a land-line through an arctic territory no longer advisable. The speaker continued his work there for another year on his own responsibility and at his own expense, feeling that unless this was done the previous work would be only too fragmentary to cover the plan of investigation he had laid out. Kennicott, overcome by his labors, had passed over to the majority. The maps, notes, records and papers of the expedition, in the haste to reduce expenses and close an unprofitable account, were scattered without publication and little profit was reaped by the public, from most of its operations. The work of the scientific corps, however, was more fortunate, but instead of appearing as it should in a general report devoted to all branches of the subject, which would always have remained a standard of reference, circumstances compelled its publication in single papers in a variety of journals, or in works intended rather for the public than for the student.