

with the finest effusions of his own great soul ; not knowing whether his own remains would find a sepulchre.

The question deferred to this period was that of Franklin having in '46 turned his back to the passage with the intention of returning to England. If that report is worth a refutation, and while his character deserves the highest praise, a few words in his behalf from one ever ready to assist the heroes of his country may not be considered out of place. His character stood all but alone in zeal, bold daring, and in enterprise, for a man to retain at the advanced age of sixty all the boldness and energy of youth, singularly blended with the lofty qualities of religion, is a combination rarely found in one individual ; with a mind that had overcome the greatest of difficulties, was a heart as generous as it was brave. Did the founders of that report forget they were speaking of a hero of Copenhagen and Trafalgar, and one who was brought up from boyhood to discovery ? Is this the man who in 1818 sailed to discover a passage north-east of Spitzbergen, and when his senior's ship was disabled requested to prosecute that perilous path alone. Is this the same Franklin who in 1821—26 led with success under sufferings of an awful description, two of the most daring boat expeditions that ever left this country. And is this he who after a long and useful life strongly chequered by misfortunes left the shores of his