

expedition could be named, this is enough to cover it with renown. Henceforward all attempts to reach the Pole will be by following in the track of the *Polaris*, and all further investigations into the geography of the circum-polar regions will be prosecuted through Kennedy Channel. The Spitzbergen route, on which so many fruitless efforts have been wasted, will now, in all probability, be abandoned. When a vessel so poorly fitted for the conflict with ice-floes as the *Polaris*, achieved so much, a properly equipped expedition, in a favorable season, is almost certain of success.

Another very important result of this expedition is the certainty it has furnished that a strong southerly current is constantly flowing through this polar-gateway, keeping the ice in motion and sweeping it south, so that navigation cannot be arrested for any great length of time. In this fact lies a source of safety for all future Arctic expeditions by the same route. Let us suppose that two stout whaling steamers were despatched in this direction, and manned by crews from the navy and commanded by naval officers, and that one of them were stationed at the entrance of Smith's Sound, while the other pressed on towards the Pole, there would be no great difficulty in maintaining communications between two vessels thus placed, and between the most southern of them and the whalers frequenting the "North Water," so that there would be no possibility of serious danger to the more advanced party, in the improbable event of their vessel being lost. Captain Hall found that the floes met with up Smith's Sound were not of a heavy description, and seldom exceeded five feet in thickness, so that it may be safely inferred they were the growth of one winter. The same was found to be the case in their winter-quarters, in 81°-38'. All the ice seen here appeared to have been formed in one winter. If, then, the most northern of these vessels should reach 84° or 85° N., from such a position parties could easily survey the whole northern coasts of Greenland and Grinnel Land, and also reach the Pole; while in case of any disaster, a safe retreat would always be kept open. The fact that the *Polaris* drifted from a high northern latitude into Baffin's Bay, is a proof of a southerly current, and of a navigable channel, as an ordinary rule.

In addition to all this, the *Polaris* expedition has dispersed many unfounded assumptions regarding the increasing difficulties