

Belcher may do every thing; but I must repeat that I am far from sanguine as to their success. The chances are against their reaching the open sea.

It is to announce, then, another plan of search that I am now before you; and as the access to the open sea forms its characteristic feature, I have given you the preceding outline of the physical characteristics of the region, in order to enable you to weigh properly its merits and demerits.

It is in recognition of the important office which American geographers may perform toward promoting its utility and success, that I have made the society the first recipient of the details and outlines of my plan.

Henry Griannell, the first president and now a vice-president of this society, has done me the honor of placing his vessel, the *Advance*, at my disposition; and the Secretary of the Navy has assigned me to "special duty" for the conduct of the expedition.

My plan of search is based upon the probable extension of the land masses of Greenland to the far north—a view yet to be verified by travel, but sustained by the analogies of physical geography. Greenland, though looked upon by Giéseke as a congeries of islands cemented by interior glaciers, is, in fact, a peninsula, and follows in its formation the general laws which have been recognized since the days of Forster as belonging to peninsulas with a southern trend. Its abrupt, truncated termination at Staaten-Hook is as marked as that which is found at the Capes Good Hope and Horn of the two great continents, the Comorin of Peninsular India, Cape South East of Australia, or the Gibraltar of Southern Spain.

Analogies of general contour, which also liken it to southern peninsulas, are even more striking. The island groups, for instance, seen to the east of these southern points, answering to the Falkland Islands, Madagascar, Ceylon, New Zealand, the Bahamas of Florida, and the Balearics of the coast of Spain, are represented by Iceland off the coast of Greenland. It has been observed that all great peninsulas, too, have an excavation or bend inward on their western side, a "concave inflection" toward the interior. Thus, South America between Lima and Valdivia, Africa in the Gulf of Guinea, India in Cambaye, and Australia in the Bay of Nuyts, are followed by Greenland in the great excavation of Disco. Analogies of the same sort may offer when we consider those more important features of relief so popularly yet so profoundly treated by Professor Guyot.

Greenland is lined by a couple of lateral ranges, metamorphic in structure, and expanding in a double axis to the N.N.W. and N.N.E. They present striking resemblances to the Ghauts of India, being broken by the same great injections of green-stone, and walling in a plateau region where glacial accumulations correspond to those of the Hindostan plains.

The culmination of these peaks in series indicates strongly their extension to a region far to the north. Thus from the South Cape of Greenland to Disco Bay, in lat. 70°, the peaks vary in height from 800 to 3200 feet. Those of Präven, lat. 71°, are 2300, and those observed by me in lat. 76° 10', gave sextant altitudes of 1380 feet, with interior summits at least one third higher.

The same continued elevation is observed by the whalers as high as 77°, and Scoresby noted nearly corresponding elevations on the eastern coasts, in lat. 73°. The coast seen by Inglefield, to the north of 78°, was high and commanding.