

collection of further proofs, by the leaders of both the Swedish and German expeditions, that the experience of all previous navigators was not at fault as to the impracticability of penetrating the ice in that direction. Arctic authorities are now therefore unanimous in the opinion that the route by Baffin's Bay and Smith's Sound promises the largest amount of valuable scientific results combined with the best assurance of safety." The memorial closed with the following paragraph: "Universal interest continues to be felt in the examination of the unknown North Polar Region. Every first class power of Europe and America, except England, has sent forth expeditions for Arctic discovery during the last twelve years. These attempts have been watched with the deepest interest, and not without some feeling of shame, by the press and people of Great Britain; and there is now a very general feeling in this country, that the time has come for us again to assert our old pre-eminence in the field of Arctic discovery."

It is remarkable that though Smith's Sound was discovered as early as 1616, by Baffin, and named by him after Sir Thomas Smith, then one of the leading spirits of the East India Company, his discovery remained unverified and almost unnoticed for two centuries. At length, in 1818, Ross and Parry, in the *Isabella* and *Alexander* saw the land at the head of the bay, and named the two capes at the entrance of Smith's Sound after their two discovery ships. Captain Inglefield, in 1853, entered the sound, reached lat  $78^{\circ} 28'$ , but returned without landing on its shores. It was reserved for the gallant American explorer, Dr. Kane, in the same year, to be the first to lead an expedition into those distant northern regions, and to be the first civilized man who landed on and examined the shores of Smith's Sound. It is true Kane was in error in supposing that Sir John Franklin and his companions had made their way into the "open Polar Sea," and were shut in by the great ice-belt which girdles the globe, and which, after admitting them had closed behind them. But it was a noble impulse which prompted him to say "I will go after them into this unknown waste of waters where, as I believe, they are still alive and waiting for help; and, God helping me, I will either restore them to the hearts that are pining for their return, or, at all events, lift the mysterious veil that enshrouds their fate." Events proved that Sir John Franklin and his brave men per-