

of this problem depends, at the same time, upon the accuracy of the observations, and upon the perfection of the analysis. It is very important to reject every empirical process, and to complete the analysis, so that it shall not be necessary to derive from observations any but indispensable data. The intention of this work is to obtain, as much as may be in my power, this interesting result.'

It is a work of great genius and immense depth, and exceedingly difficult to be comprehended. This arises, not merely from the intrinsic difficulty of the subject, and the medium of proof employed being the higher branches of the mathematics,—but chiefly from the circumstance that the author, taking it for granted that the subject would be as plain and easy to others as to himself, very often omits the intermediate steps and connecting links in his demonstrations. He jumps over the interval, and grasps the conclusion as by intuition. Dr. Bowditch used to say, 'I never come across one of La Place's "*Thus it plainly appears*," without feeling sure that I have got hours of hard study before me to fill up the chasm, and find out and shew *how* it plainly appears.'

Dr. Bowditch says, in his Introduction to the first volume, 'The object of the author, in composing this work, as stated by him in his Preface, was to reduce all the known phenomena of the system of the world to the law of gravity, by strict mathematical principles; and to complete the investigations of the motions of the planets, satellites, and comets, begun by Newton in his Principia. This he has accomplished, in a manner deserving the highest praise, for its symmetry and completeness; but, from the abridged manner in which the analytical calculations have been made, it has been found difficult to be understood by many persons, who have a strong and decided taste for mathematical studies, on account of the time and labour required to insert the intermediate steps of the demonstrations, necessary to enable them easily to follow the author in his reasoning. To remedy, in some measure, this defect, has been the chief object of the translator in the Notes.'

(To be continued.)

Spirit of Discovery.

FRENCH EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

IN a few days, the corvette *La Recherche* will sail from Havre for the Feroe Isles; to proceed thence to Hammerfest, and thence join the Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish, scientific corps, who, in conjunction with the French commission, have prosecuted, during the past winter,

a rigorous course of astronomical, magnetic, and meteorological observations, which the united bodies will continue during the ensuing year.

PROGRESS OF NORTH AMERICAN DISCOVERY FOR 1838.

[We have much pleasure in submitting to the reader the official report of the Expedition, dispatched by the Hudson's Bay Company, to complete the discovery successfully begun by Messrs. Dease and Simpson, in 1837. The furthest point explored was in lat. 68 deg. 43 min. N., and long. 106 deg. 3 min. W., making a total of 120 miles of continental discovery.]

Fort Conference, Great Bear Lake, 1838.

Hon. Sirs,—It now becomes our duty to report the incomplete success of the expedition to the eastward this summer, in consequence of the extraordinary duration of the ice. Much, however, has been done to prepare the way for another attempt next year, and our hopes, instead of being depressed, are elevated by the knowledge so painfully acquired this season.

On the 6th of June our boats were conveyed on the ice to the mouth of Dease's River (then just open), the ascent of which was commenced the following day. With some assistance from Indians we reached the portage leading to the Dismal Lakes discovered by Mr. Simpson last winter, and carried the boats across it without accident. The ice on these lakes was still perfectly solid, and we were provided with iron-shod sledges for the passage; on these we fixed the boats, and the wind being fair, hoisted sail, which greatly aided the crews on the hauling-ropes. In this manner these frozen reservoirs, which are full 30 miles long, were passed in two days, and we reached our provision-station at Kendall River on the 19th. There we had the satisfaction to find the two men left there by Mr. Simpson, in April, well, and their two Indian hunters successful in the chase. Two of these active fellows consented at once to accompany us along the coast, and proved not only good voyagers, but during our frequent detentions among the ice, killed so many reindeer as enabled us to save nearly half our summer's stock of provisions. On the next day, June 20th, we proceeded to the Coppermine River, which we found still fast. It gave way on the 22nd, and we descended all its "terrible" rapids at full flood, while the ice was still driving. Below the Bloody Fall the river did not clear out till the 26th, and on the 1st of July we pitched our tents at the ocean. Two or three Esquimaux families were seen there, but they took the alarm, and fled over the ice