

Baker and other hardy Britishers are sweltering beneath equatorial suns, it is only right to preserve the balance of the national character by sending a few scores of their countrymen to shiver under the polar star, and feel eerie at the howl of the white bear. Hitherto Great Britain has made all the noteworthy discoveries in the Arctic regions. Americans have entered the field with admirable pluck and reasonable success, but naturally enough they were later in the race, and there was less to reward their enterprise. We shall soon know what has been done by the ill-fated expedition of Dr. Hall.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

DEATH has been busy with great men during the month. Most prominent of those whose names have been removed from the roll of honour are Chief Justice Chase and John Stuart Mill. The former filled for several years a prominent place in the United States during the troubles of the late civil war. As Secretary of the Treasury during President Lincoln's term of office, he displayed considerable ability as a financier when the nation's credit was low and the annual expenditure enormously great. How much of his preference for an irredeemable currency was due to a conviction of its merits, and how much to the fiat of circumstances, would be difficult to say; it is sufficient to remark that, though by no means the first finance minister who has resorted to such a mode of tiding over difficulties, he used it on so large a scale that it will long be peculiarly associated with his name, and he will in all probability be remembered as the author of the greenback currency when his services as a statesman and a jurist have passed away from recollection, or are to be found recorded only in some brief historic paragraph.

A much greater man was John Stuart Mill. Apparently without a single particle of moral cowardice in his disposition, he united intellectual vigor, sympathy with all that concerned man, and a somewhat daring originality together in such a harmonious whole that it will be long before we can look upon his like again. With his views on natural and revealed religion we have nothing here to do. On these subjects he was at variance with all the orthodoxy of the age; and yet, careless about the name of "Christian" as he was, there are few controversialists of any creed who might not study to advantage the moderation and spirit of fairness that pervade everything he wrote. With the exception of Thomas Carlyle, a much older, but, we firmly believe, no greater man or truer philosopher, there is not a single writer who has done so