

whilst a like employment of balloons has been suggested in aid of the means hitherto employed for Arctic researches.

As a mode of attaining an elevated site for observation—whether for looking out for the anxiously-sought expedition under Sir John Franklin, or for the more remote inspection of the nature of the ices and lands in the direction contemplated for travelling parties, or parties otherwise engaged in researches, the balloon, it is obvious, might be very advantageously made use of. With a perfectly calm and clear atmosphere, a height of perhaps half a mile, or more, might be ascended with a small balloon, attached by a light rope, or lead line, to the ship; whilst a practised aeronaut, provided with sledge, provisions, and tent, might ascend, when the air was pretty stagnant, very much higher—trusting to the resources carried along with him, for his return, within a limited distance, to the ship.

In respect to the nature and extent of view commanded in aeronautic adventure, considerable mistake seems to prevail, which it may not be unuseful to notice. It had been assumed by a document which recently appeared in some of the public journals, that an elevation of two miles would command a panoramic view of at least 1200 miles—an extent of vision, however, unless singularly aided by a generally elevated region of country beyond the ordinary horizon, greatly overrated. The ordinary horizon—assuming a surface of ocean, or ice-covered sea, or a country on which the position ascended from should be an average one as to