

HALL'S SECOND ARCTIC EXPLORING EXPEDITION.*

FOR three centuries and more, Arctic discovery has been a national passion of the maritime countries of the world. From the days of Columbus the hope of finding a northwest passage to the Indies continued to be a strong incentive to North American exploration. In 1553, Sir Hugh Willoughby, an English sailor, in attempting a northwest passage to China, perished of cold in a harbour in Lapland. The following year, he, with his crew, were found frozen to marble in their oak-ribbed sepulchre. In 1576, Sir Martin Frobisher again essayed the task, "as the only thing in the world yet left undone, by which a notable minde might be made famous and fortunate." In a vessel of only five and twenty tons, he reached the straits still known by his name. He took possession of a barren island in the name of Queen Elizabeth, and found in its soil some grains of gold, or what resembled it. A gold mania ensued. Two successive fleets, one of fifteen vessels, were despatched to the arctic El Dorado. Several of the vessels were wrecked or driven from their course; the others returned, laden with hundreds of tons of glittering mica. The discovery of its worthlessness ended the attempt at arctic colonization, but the dream of a northwest passage was still a potent spell.

The names of Hudson, Behring, Baffin, Davis, Parry, Ross, Wrangel, Barrow, Scoresby, Franklin, Kane, Rae, Hayes, and Hall do not complete the list of gallant explorers in those northern wilds. One of the most notable of these is the subject of the present sketch. His personal history is very remarkable. He was born at Rochester, N. H., in 1821, and died in Greenland, in 1871. Into these fifty years was crowded more adventure, hardship, and discovery than falls to the lot of most men, even of the longest lives. "A blacksmith by trade, he

* For the information given in this article we are indebted to the magnificent 4to volume on this subject, published by order of Congress. It contains 644 pages, and is sumptuously illustrated with wood and steel engravings, and with coloured and folding maps of the polar regions. May be ordered through this Book Room for \$3 per copy. Through the courtesy of the accomplished Editor, Prof. J. E. Nourse, we are enabled to present some of the engravings from this volume.—ED.