

Chief-Engineer Melville, one of the survivors of the *Jeanette* expedition, after analyzing all data obtainable from the U. S. Hydrographic Office Reports, with a careful scrutiny and comparison of arrows, indicating the currents observed by various navigators and distinguished geographers, and being personally familiar with the Arctic literature in general, and the drift of the *Jeanette* up to her loss, has expressed his carefully determined belief that the drift from where they left the vessel would eventually have taken her safely out had she remained staunch and intact, proceeding south-easterly past the southern end of Franz Josef Land, thence moving at a very rapid rate when the pack impinged upon that group of land, and continuing on in the current, passing south of Spitzbergen, around Bear Island into Atlantic waters.

He says before the *Jeanette* sunk, they all felt sure their vessel would continue to drift northwest during the coming year, they having then got out of that region of Arctic doldrums, as far as drift is concerned, which whirls ice around in circles, in a locality just north of Wrangel island. The Arctic seems to be a very shallow ocean, largely studded with an island archipelago, and on the Pacific side many indications point to the possible existence of a small Arctic continent surrounding the physical pole. The greatest depth encountered by the *Jeanette* during her first year's drift was not over sixty, and the least seventeen fathoms. The bottom from which was taken many meteoric specimens, was generally uniform, averaging about thirty fathoms only. The *Jeanette* had already drifted more than half way to the longitude of the river Yenisei, a point on the northern coast of Asia visited by steamers from Hammerfest in Norway, belonging to Alexander Siberiakoff, an enterprising Russian merchant, who trades there for wheat and other local products.

Professor George Davidson, President of this Academy, who, as Assistant in charge of the Bureau of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in this city, and author of the Alaska Coast Pilot published by the U. S. Government, has devo-