

the reports for which the Duke of Somerset desired to wait, and by them we find that the Swedish and German Commanders of Arctic Expeditions, after gaining actual experience in ice-navigation, fully agree with their brother-explorers of England in the route that should be taken, and in the means by which success must be achieved.

Such were the results of the German and Swedish Arctic Expeditions up to the year 1871. I now proceed to give you a *précis* of a very interesting voyage, made under Austrian auspices last year, into the sea between Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla.

Lieutenants A. Weyprecht and Julius Payer, of the Austrian Navy—the latter of whom was associated with Captain Koldewey in his voyages to the North—appear to have very ingeniously thought of following the supposed Gulf Stream into the Polar Basin, by keeping more to the eastward of Spitzbergen, and towards Nova Zembla, than Koldewey had done, and especially directed their attention towards Gillies Land.* After many delays, Payer and his associate, Lieutenant Weyprecht, put forth from Tromsø, in Norway, on the 21st June, 1871, in a small hired native vessel of 70 tons, and a crew, all included, of eight souls. Finding they could not reach Gillies Land in a direct course, they endeavoured to work their way up the Stor Fiord. Here they were met by southerly currents and heavily drifting ice, against which they struggled fruitlessly until the 19th August, when, for good and sufficient reasons, they abandoned the Stor Fiord route towards Gillies Land, and attempted then to reach it by following the eastern coast of the outermost islands of the Spitzbergen group.

On the 13th August they reached Hope Island. It was free from ice, and they anchored there, and logged a current running past the ship w.s.w. three knots per hour. Leaving Hope Island on the 21st August, they had reached lat. $77^{\circ}17'$ N., and between the 28th and 36th degree of long. E. found much lighter ice than had hitherto been met with. On the evening of the 22nd the Report says:—

“Of King Charles's Land we saw nothing, although only 40 to 50 miles distant. In the evening, for a short time, we had a clear sky towards the northward; otherwise we were enveloped in eternal fog.

“The vicinity of the land, however, was proclaimed by the decreasing depth of the sea, and numerous bear-tracks on the ice.”

Between that date and the 29th they appear, on the parallel

* ‘The Polar Expedition of A. Weyprecht and Julius Payer in the year 1871.’ Geographical Society, Vienna, 1872.