

and resultless enterprises cannot be defended in a world where there is so much work to be done, and the time to do it is so short. The Polaris Expedition, like other matters, must submit to be judged by its results. But for the misfortunes which overtook that expedition, the array of results would have been much greater than we now know them to be. The greatest of these misfortunes was the death of the heroic leader, Captain Hall. Wanting his inspiring enthusiasm, the expedition could not be carried out to a successful issue. The loss of the greater part of the records of the expedition, and many of the specimens, in the gale of October 15th, 1872, was another irreparable calamity. How painful to the scientific corps to discover that the records of their observations—which had cost them many a weary vigil during the long Arctic night—had been swept away on the ice, and were lost beyond recovery. The whole of Captain Hall's papers were lost in this way, having been placed for safety on the ice when the ship was supposed to be sinking. Only a small part of the meteorological and tidal observations was saved; the pendulum observations were also saved, but the observations of time were lost. The whole of the astronomical and magnetic records unhappily shared the same fate. The loss to science of these valuable records of observations taken in the highest latitude in which white men have ever wintered, is greatly to be deplored.

The most striking and important result of the Polaris expedition was the demonstration which it furnished of the practicability of carrying a vessel, by way of Kennedy Channel, to  $82^{\circ} 16' N.$ , or within little more than four hundred miles of the Pole. Even this high latitude was attained in a single working season, and almost without any serious hindrances. It is also certain that, at this farthest point, the sea was still navigable; and that, with a stouter ship, and more confidence on the part of those in command, a still higher point could have been reached. Thus the Polaris has opened the way to the North Pole, and we may now be assured that a host of eager discoverers will be pressing on in the same route, and that the mysterious Pole will ere long be reached. The true gateway to the Pole has at length been discovered; and the icy barrier, which has for centuries baffled the boldest navigators, has at length been pierced. The honor of this achievement belongs to the brave Captain Hall, and if no other result of his