

the "*Polaris*" farther north is evident from the testimony of various witnesses before the Commission at Washington. Dr. Bessels, in his examination, said: "After we reached the highest point we had to make fast to an ice-floe, not being able to penetrate any farther. We had a consultation on deck among the officers of the ship, Mr. Chester, Mr. Morton, Captain Tyson, Captain Buddington and myself. Messrs. Chester, Tyson and Morton suggested going ahead. I did the same, only remarking at the same time that if we were not able to make any more northing we were to strike to the west coast, because we had a fine base of land to proceed on. Captain Buddington said that he did not see any chance to go in farther, and so we did not attempt it. Captain Hall was very anxious to go north." *Question*: "Was there any opening to the north at that time?" *Answer*: "I had not been at the mast-head. Tyson was there and one of the men, and they both reported that they saw plenty of open water, intersected by drifting ice. We could not see open water from the deck. The ice was intersected by water-leads. We tied up to the ice and drifted back." Mr. Chester, the mate, in his examination, said: "On the 31st of August 1871, we got to the highest point we made. The steamer was stopped. We could see through the channel, and there was a water-cloud seen—a dense water-cloud—to the north,—I mean a cloud that denotes open water. It is a sort of fog that hangs over the water. I think we could have gone farther north from that point. It has always been my impression that we might have gone on. It was my watch, below at the time. I heard them sing out to the man at the mast-head, and heard him sing out there was a lead close to the land, on the east shore, and some one called me." The evidence of Henry Hobby on this point is still more conclusive. He said: "We turned back at six o'clock in the morning. We continued still to see land on both sides of us. On the 29th, Captain Hall called all the officers on the house, for the purpose of having them consult as to what it was best to do about establishing winter quarters or going farther north. I was on the look-out at that time on the crow's nest. From what I heard nearly all the officers wanted to go north. Captain Buddington and Captain Tyson said it was necessary to make winter-quarters as fast as possible. I could hear every word that was uttered. Captain Buddington wanted to go into Newman's Bay; Captain Hall and all the rest wanted