

One door of hope remains "out of the valley of Achor." Smith's Sound seems destined to be the true gateway to the Pole: and here the hopes of all Arctic explorers are at length concentrated. It has this vast advantage over all others—that it is the only point in the whole circuit of the 80th parallel where lines of coast stretch away towards the Pole. The expeditions of Kane and Hayes, and the still more recent voyage of Captain Hall in the *Polaris*, have proved, beyond all question, that the land on both sides of Kennedy Channel is continued away beyond its termination at Cape Constitution, and stretches far towards the North Pole; while at the same time, it is now known that, in an ordinarily favourable season, the waters of both Smith's Sound and Kennedy Channel are navigable, by properly equipped vessels, and that it is possible to carry a ship, as was done in the case of the *Polaris*, beyond 82° N. With a coast line as a basis of operations, and a well-appointed ship in a high northern latitude as a starting point, all the elements of success are present, and to reach the Pole seems no impossible or even difficult achievement.

The world is indebted to the energy and perseverance of American explorers for opening up and making known this portal to the vast unknown North Polar regions. Though late in entering the field, America has done noble service in the cause of Arctic exploration; and with characteristic enterprise and courage, her sons have pressed forward into unknown regions, and already won a high place in the roll of Arctic worthies. With a true instinct, they fixed on Smith's Sound as the portal that was to lead to the Pole, and this at a time when the highest authorities in Europe either ignored or condemned this route. They persevered; and now among European geographers and the most eminent Arctic authorities, there is almost a perfect unanimity of opinion in favour of the route by Smith's Sound. At the close of last year, a deputation from the Royal Geographical Society of England waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Lord of the Admiralty, and presented a memorial in which the despatch of another Arctic expedition was earnestly urged. Sir Henry Rawlinson, Sir Henry Holland, Dr. Carpenter, and the veteran Arctic explorers Sir George Back, Admiral Collinson, Admiral Durmaney, Captain Sherard Osborn were members of this deputation. In their memorial they stated that, "seven years of unsuccessful labour in the direction of Spitzbergen have led to the