

by the ships of the expedition. That this expectation is not unsupported by facts will not be denied.

In the first place, the voyagers in Hudson's Bay found a northern current setting into that bay to the southward. Ice bergs have been also seen in Hudson's Bay ; but, as Mr. Ellis relates, rarely to the northward ; his directions being to keep as much to the northward as possible, those parts being usually free from ice. Now we have seen that ice exists only in tranquil water, and, of course, where a strong current, or much agitation of the sea, is observable, the dissolution of ice is a certain consequence. If therefore Mr. Ellis found the ice less frequent in the northern parts of Hudson's Bay, where a strong current was known to run, it naturally follows that the current descended from the Arctic Ocean, dissolving the ice in its progress, or leaving the congealed masses behind among the rocky channels leading from that water into Hudson's Bay.

Either of those deductions is unfavourable therefore to the prosecution of a passage to the Pacific by the bottom of Hudson's Bay ; the former by presenting the difficulties arising from an impetuous current, and the apprehended obstructions of masses of ice and shelving rocks ; the latter as leading inquiry merely into the Arctic regions. From those deductions, however, one good consequence results. The current to the southward, which appears to borrow its chief supply from the great Tartarian torrents,