

coast occurs, on the Greenland side; while on the American side, land is visible as far as 83° , or four hundred and twenty miles from the Pole. The water which Morton, of Kane's expedition, took to be an open Polar Sea, in 1854, and which Dr. Hayes confidently pronounced to be the same, when, in 1861, he reached lat. $81^{\circ} 35'$ on a dog-sledge, on the American side, is now proved to be Polaris Bay, and is about eighty-seven miles from north to south, and about sixty miles from east to west. This bay narrows at its northern extremity into Robeson's Channel, which is twenty-five miles in width and forty-five in length.

Thus Hall's expedition has made solid and valuable additions to our knowledge of the geography of those mysterious regions which have baffled so many explorers. The question of an open Polar Sea is not absolutely settled by his discoveries, but its existence is rendered much less probable, and the proofs adduced by Kane and Hayes in support of the theory, are swept away. Most persons will regard Hall's discoveries as favouring the hypothesis of Dr. Petermann, the eminent German geographer. His opinion is that Greenland is prolonged over the Pole, and joins the land seen by the American whalers who ran up Behring's Straits, in the summer of 1867, and which land they supposed to be inhabited. That there are really inhabitants in these extreme northern regions, seems not improbable from the fact that, only a few years ago, some natives came down from the East coast to Pamiadluk, the most southern of the Danish settlements on the west coast of Greenland, declaring that it was two years since they had left their homes in the far north.

For three days the *Polaris* drifted south, and Captain Hall then found himself at the southern point of Robeson's Channel, which he named Cape Luptun. Here the ice slackened; steam was got up, and steering eastward in Polaris Bay he reached, at its head, a harbour which he named "Thank-God Harbour," and in which he determined to winter. He cast anchor near a huge iceberg which was aground, and which he called "Providence Iceberg." On September 5th, he landed a portion of his stores, and proceeded to erect the wooden observatory he had on board, in which the scientific corps were to take observations. On the 12th a musk-ox was shot. These animals were found to be quite plentiful around Polaris Bay; and before the darkness set in, twenty-five of them were killed. They are about the size of a small cow, and