

the east. In the event of such an hypothesis proving correct, it will be obvious that should Franklin have succeeded in penetrating through, and to the westward of *Wellington Channel*, the interposition of this tract would preclude all possibility of his bringing his ships again so far south as to reach *Behring's Strait*, unless the westerly course were greatly prolonged, or the *Wellington Channel* again traversed."

Accepting the preceding theory as a good one, the conditions of remoteness and isolation would be fulfilled; and it is not so unlikely an event as at first blush it seems, that Franklin may have succeeded in passing the 170th meridian of west longitude, whilst far to the north of *Behring's Strait*,* and be even now wedged up somewhere above the continent of Asia; or, not impossibily, that of Europe.

With regard to the means of sustenance offered in these regions, we would refer to the notes at page 8, and likewise to the evidence on this head afforded by the foregoing papers. The last, especially, go to prove an extreme abundance of animal life in the neighbourhood, and to the north of the *Parry Islands*, and shew, perhaps, that one of the worst-founded apprehensions in relation to the absent expedition is that based upon their imagined want of food.

* It is scarcely necessary to observe, that the higher the latitude reached, the shorter the distance between the meridians. Thus, a journey from one given meridian to another, which would occupy a *month's* space in latitude 68°, might, at the same rate of progress, be accomplished, twelve degrees further north, in a *fortnight*.

(For further observations as to Franklin's course, see the extracts from the November number of the *Nautical Magazine*, inserted at page 36. These were not perceived until subsequently to the jotting down of the preceding few remarks, but aid most materially the view which we have there ventured to take.)
