

judiciously from them, even if time suffered me to do so. In concluding, he says:

"This profound and beautiful hypothesis may boast no sanction of high authority, nor count as its advocates any arctic explorer. For a while it may have to rest its claims on deductions of science, and be ushered into notice on the quiet authority of mathematical calculations. Was it not so with the theory of Columbus? What of this? 'Galle, we know, with his powerful telescope, at Berlin, and aided by a host of astronomers elsewhere, was defeated in his search for a planet, when, with no other instrument but his pencil, it was found and triumphantly pointed out by the French mathematician.'"

#### LATE EXPLORATIONS.

This brings us to the consideration of the reports of the explorations that have come to the public since the delivery of my former address, in the winter of 1868.

These explorations having been made principally by northern Europeans, their narratives, as originally published, are generally in the German language; though the Hydrographic office of the United States Navy Department has furnished us with voluminous translations from Dr. Petermann's *Geographical Journal*, which no doubt contains the most important information in regard to their operations. To give you a general view of all these details would require too much time. I will therefore avail myself of a couple of circular letters, sent me by Dr. Petermann, upon the subject, which I will give pretty much in full.

#### THE GERMAN EXPEDITION.

The first of these letters is dated Gotha, November 5th, 1870, and says: "Since Herr von Heugelin has just returned from east Spitzbergen, and the latest news from the different Russian and Norwegian expeditions have been received, we are enabled to sum up the whole results of all the expeditions sent toward the North Pole during this year. In order to briefly recapitulate the results of the German expedition to east Greenland, I beg to remark that the steamer *Germania* proceeded on that coast as far as  $75^{\circ} 1'$  north, and in sledges to  $77^{\circ} 7'$  north; that they discovered a 'flord,' which extends far into the interior of Greenland; and also Arctic 'Mont Blancs'; and further, that this coast can be easily approached. Henry Hudson first discovered this in June, 1607; and since then it has been visited by different vessels, more particularly about the years 1820-'30; by Scorsely, Clavering and Sabine. Herr von Heugelin and Earl von Zeil remained from July 15th till September 15th, on and near east Spitzbergen, which they explored and mapped from  $77^{\circ}$  north to  $79^{\circ}$  north—mostly in boats. They also discovered a large body of land east of Spitzbergen.