

THE EXPLORATION OF HUDSON BAY—In the month of February last a report was laid before the Parliament of Canada detailing the results of an expedition despatched by the Government of that country particularly for the purpose of inquiring into the navigability of Hudson Strait and Bay, and, at the same time, of gathering information concerning the resources of that region, and its availability as a field for settled habitation. This report represents the first properly organized attempt that has ever been made to pierce the secrets of Hudson Bay for the public benefit. It is at first blush not easy to understand why this mighty expanse of water, occupying the peculiarly important position that it does, should remain for so many generations comparatively unexplored and wholly unutilized, except as a hunting-ground for a few New Bedford whalers, or a medium of easy communication between some half-dozen scattered factories of the Hudson Bay Company. Although called a bay, it is really an inland sea 1,000 miles in length by 600 in width, having thus an area about 500,000 square miles, or quite half that of the Mediterranean. It drains an expanse of country spreading out more than 2,000 miles from east to west, and 1,500 from north to south, or an area of 3,000,000 square miles. Into its majestic water pour feeders which take their rise in the Rocky Mountains on the west, and in Labrador on the east, while southward it stretches out its river-roots away below the 49th parallel

until they tap the same lake-source which sends a stream into the Gulf of Mexico. Despite its distance northward, its blue waves are never bound by icy fetters, and its broad gateway to the Atlantic is certainly navigable four months out of the year, and possibly all the year round to properly equipped steamships. Its depths abound in finny wealth, from the mammoth whale to the tiny caplin. Its shores are serrated by numerous streams, some navigable for long distances inland, and all stocked with the finest of fresh-water fish, and clothed as to their banks with valuable timber ready for the lumberman's axe. Its islands are rich in mineral ore of many kinds. The country whose margin its tides lave is well adapted for tillage and pasturage, while all around the region swarms with animals and birds whose flesh or fur render their chase a highly lucrative employment. — *Popular Science Monthly*.

MERCY.

The quality of mercy is not strained :
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest :
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes ;
'Tis mightiest in the Mightiest ; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown ;
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings.
But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God Himself ;
And earthly power doth then show likest
God's,
When mercy seasons justice.

—*Shakespeare*.

A BAGFUL of historical documents relating to the proceedings which led to the siege of Carlisle by the Scots after the battle of Marston Moor, has been found under a beam in the triforium of Carlisle Cathedral by some workmen who were doing repairs.

The documents bear the date of 1642 and 1643, and they must have been hidden under the beam 240 years ago. They have been taken possession of by the Dean and Chapter, who intend to have them examined by experts. — *Southern Journal of Education*.