

Poetical.

The following Song written by Mr. Peabody, was sung at the 50th celebration of the American Independence, at Exeter, New-Hampshire.

TUNE—Adams and Liberty.

I.
While Jupiter sat on his throne in the skies,
The thunder of battle waxed louder and louder,

The smoke of the cannon brought tears to his eyes,
And his nose was assailed by the fumes of gun powder;

'Tis America strives
For her children and wives,
While the proud sons of Britain pull foot for their lives,
The roses of glory the brave shall adorn,
While the sea bears a ship, or the field Indian corn.

II.
I'll give them a banner, in triumph he said,
And a piece of blue sky from the firmament to be,
He rabbled the rainbow to stripe it with red,
And sewed some bright stars on, to add to its glory:

This banner, says he,
Is the flag of the free,
And the North or South Pole shall the standard Pole be,
It shall float in the skies on the breezes of morn,
While the sea bears a ship or the field Indian corn.

III.
Then swell the loud Pæans; ye cannons speak out;
Let the roar of this day through the universe flow,
Till the brazen-lunged seraphs re-echo the shout,
And let the voices on high join the chorus below:

Be your banners unfurled,
And your thunder bolts hurled,
Till the glorious huzza plugs the ear of the world;
For ne'er such a nation again shall be born,
While the sea bears a ship, or the field Indian Corn.

From the National Journal.

AMERICAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION—An examination of all the attempts hitherto made to ascertain more satisfactorily the geography and natural history of these regions, will suffice to convince every unprejudiced observer that the field for discovery remains still immense, and that the reason why more is not known in relation to these remote regions, is, because more has not been attempted.

The many interesting facts connected with the North and the South, and recorded by travellers and navigators of high and unquestionable authority, are calculated rather to elicit, than to satisfy curiosity. They clearly show that science has not yet attained its acme of perfection, and that there are within the mighty bosom of the universe, unexplained phenomena which may shed light upon our systems of philosophy.

All former opinions have regard to the temperature of the climate, as increasing in tensity in approaching high latitudes; but this is found not to be the fact.

After passing a certain degree of latitude, either to the North or South, the ocean is generally found unencumbered with ice, the temperature more mild, the productions of nature more abundant and animals more plentiful.

The currents flowing from the North are stated by some authors to be warmer than the ocean in lower latitudes, and the winds from that direction are known to be equally mild. The ice floating upon the currents is of a different specific gravity.

The sun in high latitudes becomes less bright, and the color of the ocean more dark.

On the bosom of the currents, flowing from the Arctic seas, are to be found immense quantities of floating timber, ten degrees farther north than any timber is known to grow. On the coasts of Greenland, Iceland, and Norway, this timber is lodged every season, and

on the latter, seeds of a topical kind, in so recent a state as to vegetate and grow.

Is it said they are carried by the Gulph Stream, thrown into the polar basin, and from thence brought down by the northerly currents? We answer, that from the Great Bank, the Gulph Stream turns more to the east, and loses itself in the great expanse of the Atlantic Ocean.

The current which flows south east from Hudson's Bay and Davis' Straits, and the experiments of Capt. Parry, demonstrate that such is not their origin.

Does the timber come from Labrador? We answer that it comes with the currents, and lodges on that shore. Is Canada the nursery of this timber? We ask why is not the oak, the ash, and other timber of that country found with it? which is not the fact. Let us trace this subject still further to the countries of Siberia and Tartary. From the account of the Russian vessels, sent out by Imperial orders, in the year 1725, with the view of discovering a north-east passage, we find that the whole Siberian coasts is lined with drift wood; that the most decayed trunks lay the farthest from the shore, evidently evincing that it was brought from some other region.

The same drift is found on the coast of Kamschatka, and the inhabitants say that it comes from countries unknown to them. It is useless to speculate upon this subject. We leave it "in medio," and in the words of Scanzoni, in his history of Greenland, only observe, "That it is evident this drift wood comes from a rich and cold country, but it is difficult to tell where that country is."

The variation and dip of the needle, the extraordinary powers of vision, independent of refraction, the difference in latitude and longitude found by celestial observation, and that of the logline—the sun in his northern declination not appearing to Parry at his greatest altitude, until a short time after 12 o'clock, are a few of the many unexplained phenomena of high latitudes, which are difficult to be reconciled with our common received opinions of the figure of the earth at the poles.

The account and tradition of nations of high latitudes, as well from the continent of America as from Asia, joined with the migration of fish, animals & birds, various in their species, and incredible in their numbers, to and from the polar regions, speak a language that cannot be misinterpreted. They cannot emigrate: neither is it reasonable to suppose that that mysterious, yet unerring guide, instinct, directs them to regions of perpetual night, of ice and snow. To explore their winter retreat, is within the enterprise of man.

In the case of all the expeditions that have yet been undertaken, the causes which led to their return without the fruition of their hopes, were generally unconnected with insuperable obstacles, or rather, were attributable to defect in the instruction of officers, the fear of wanting the necessary provisions, the superstition and mutiny of crews, or the choice of an improper season to make the exploration.

Thus for instance, when Scoresby advanced to 81 deg. north, having penetrated field ice, he turned back, with an open sea before

him, having nothing in view but the capture of whales, and being unwilling to risk a vessel which he had no instruction to employ in making discoveries.

The papers of the hon. Barrington and col. Beaufoy, members of the Royal society of London, contain many instances wherein navigators have reached high northern latitudes.

As far back as the year 1751, capt. McCallam, an able sea officer engaged in the Greenland fisheries, after the spring labours were past, determined to extend his researches towards the Pole, & accordingly pursued his discoveries to 83 deg. 80, where the sea was not only open to the north, but he had not seen a speck of ice for the last three degrees.

While thus advancing in those high latitudes, the mate became alarmed at the unsteadiness of the needle, and entered his protest against proceeding any further. The captain, knowing that if any accident should occur, he would be severely censured by his employers, though with reluctance, agreed to return.

We have it on the authority of Dr. Campbell, the able continuator and reviser of Harrison's Collection of Voyages, that a certain Dr. Dallie, while young, was on board a Dutch vessel, employed in the fisheries, and that between the spring and fall labors, advanced still further north than captain McCallam, where, agreeable to their accounts, the sea was not only less encumbered with ice, but rolling like the bay of Biscay. They determined their latitude from time to time by both Davis & Hadley's Quadrants. Dr. Dallie now urged the captain to advance still further, who answered, that he had already gone too far; and that he feared being censured by his employers in Holland—whose instructions, the insurance of the vessel, and custom house oath, confined him to the Greenland seas.

Mr. Stephens, from the northern parts of Spitzbergen, was driven by a southerly wind to 84 deg. 30 min. and found the sea entirely open and free from ice.

Capt. Reed, Phillips, Hutton, Wheatly, Robinson, Clark, Glunrey, Boid, Ware, and five vessels under the command of Hans Derick, in the German employ, all have been beyond 80 deg. north, and agree in this important fact—that beyond 80 deg. 30m. or 81 deg. the ocean, from some cause or other, perhaps not well understood, is found less encumbered with ice.

Franklin, in the year 1819, and we may now add in the year 1825, when north of Baffin's Bay, informs us, in his Journal, that all the ice he met with, would not have impeded the progress of a long boat.

To the south our information is limited to fewer facts; little has been discovered in that hemisphere since the days of Cook, who, it is true, was not able to advance beyond 71 deg.—but this attempt was not made in the most favorable season of the year. The intrepid Weddell has lately shewn that the icy circle to the south, as well as to the north, may be passed. To use his own words, "In lat. 74 deg. 25, south, not a speck of ice to be seen, the mildness of every thing around us is such that our situation might be envied, were it not for the well known

fact, that we had to penetrate immense fields of ice again in returning to the equator." What might not be expected from an experienced crew of Nantucket seamen, with such an open ocean before them.

The results of the recent attempts of Ross, Parry & Franklin are well known, and the reasons of the suspensions of their efforts were altogether unconnected with the necessary difficulties of their situations. They effected enough, however, to shew, that with the advantages of the experience acquired through their enterprises, a much more efficient attempt might now be made.

Hitherto, the object proposed, by all these polar voyages, have either been for the improvement of the whaling business, or for the discovery of a north west passage. In consequence whereof, one set of explorers have been led at once to the borders of the field ice, for purpose of seeking the objects of their trade; while others, engaged in seeking for a passage, have naturally endeavored to find it by scrutinizing the Bays and Coasts of the northern parts of the continent. Thus both have been unavoidably withheld from advancing beyond a certain degree, by the necessary formation of ice, which extends from the shore, for many leagues into the main ocean.

It is impossible, therefore, that voyages thus conducted should be more successful than the preceding.

But instead of pursuing this course, the exploring vessels setting out in the most favorable season of the year, and keeping as far as possible in the mid ocean might advance much farther to the north or south, without the impediments experienced while creeping around the indentations of the coast or making way among numerous islands, each of which serves as a point of retardation, by affording the means of support and extension to the earliest ice that forms.

Suppose that this course is pursued, and before the expiration of the summer season the farthest point is attained, the prospect of passing the winter in safety there, is equally great, if not greater than it would be near the shore, of any part of these regions; and after one winter passed in such situation, the succeeding operative period might, it is believed, be employed to much better advantage than it could possibly be according to any of the attempts hitherto made.

The first, and most interesting question to be determined is, whether the figure of the earth at the poles, is that of an oblate spheroid, as has been so long maintained, or whether it may not be some other shape, which may more satisfactorily account for many circumstances and phenomena, now apparently inexplicable.

The settlement of this question is connected immediately with a world of important and useful investigation, which exercise a pervading influence in every department of human science & industry.

Secondary to this great object, such an expedition could scarcely fail to lead to the most satisfactory and useful observations in natural history; especially, concerning the winter retreats of those sea animals which are peculiarly interesting, as sources of commercial prosperity. The hunting of the whale and seal heretofore carried

(To be concluded next week.)