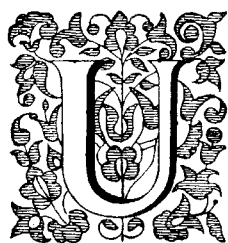




INTRODUCTION.

I.—*On the Original Accounts of the Voyages to Greenland in 1605, 1606, 1607, and 1612.*



UNTIL within the last fifty years, very little was known about the Danish Expeditions to Greenland in 1605 and 1606, beyond what could be learned from the accounts of James Hall (who acted as pilot), which were published in *Purchas his Pilgrimes*.¹ In several respects, however, these narratives are defective, notably as regards the geographical exploration of the coast; and, if it is now possible to give a fairly-complete account of these voyages, this is due to the fact of important fresh material having come to light within the period named.

¹ "*Hakluytus Posthumus, or Purchas his Pilgrimes; Contayning a History of the World, in Sea Voyages and Lande Trauells, by Englishmen and others.*" * * * By Samuel Purchas, B.D. (London, 4 vols., fcp. fol., 1625), vol. iii, pp. 814-826.

vi DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS, 1605-1620.

The foremost place amongst these new sources of knowledge must be conceded to Hall's original Report to the King of Denmark on the voyage of 1605, of which a copy is preserved in the British Museum.¹ The chief importance of this document lies in the fact that it is accompanied by four maps, drawn by Hall, which constitute the earliest attempts at anything like accurate mapping of any portion of the west coast of Greenland, and which, as such, are extremely creditable to Hall. These maps not only illustrate the Report, but, as regards one portion of the voyage, they really represent nearly all the information concerning it that we have from Hall himself. After having reached a convenient port in Greenland, where the commander of the expedition might wait for him in safety, Hall set out in a smaller vessel in order to explore the coast northwards, as far as he could in the course of three or four weeks; but, in the "Report", he gives no description at all of this portion of the voyage, or of its result, referring merely to his maps, from which alone, therefore, the reader is left to gather where Hall went and what he discovered. These maps do not accompany the accounts published by Purchas: hence the great importance of their having come to light. It was Mr. Clements Markham who, in 1881, first drew attention to the existence of this manuscript and the

¹ *MS. Bibl. Reg.*, 17A, xlviij, p. 261.

maps in his work on William Baffin¹; but, as they came under his notice only in connexion with the fact that Baffin served under Hall in 1612, Mr. Markham did not enter further on the subject. His observations, however, led to the manuscript and the maps being copied for the use of the Danish Commission for the Exploration of Greenland, and the maps were reproduced (though mostly on a reduced scale) in an interesting paper by Mr. K. J. V. Steenstrup, on the ancient Scandinavian settlement in Greenland, published in 1889.² Hall's report itself was not then published, and is now printed for the first time in the present volume, accompanied by full-size reproductions of the maps.³

¹ *The Voyages of William Baffin, 1612-1622* (Hakluyt Society, 1881), pp. xxi, 17, and 23.

² *Om Österbygden*, in *Meddelelser om Grönland* [Reports on Greenland], vol. ix (1889), p. 1-51. These *Meddelelser* (which will be often quoted in the sequel) constitute the regular organ of the Commission for the Exploration of Greenland, and contain a vast amount of information on that country.

³ The manuscript consists of 21 leaves, small quarto, and is bound together with others of a similar size. The watermark of the paper, as far as visible, represents two towers. The leaves have no original numbering or pagination, but the second to the twentieth leaf have subsequently been marked in pencil, 1 to 19, by some librarian. All the pages are bordered all round by fine red double lines, which extend beyond the corners where they meet to the edges of the paper, except on the pages prepared for maps, on which the border-lines are not so continued. The first leaf has no writing on it, and the report commences on the front page of the second leaf, without any title-page or heading. The text is closely and very neatly written in the same hand all through, but whether by Hall himself, or by a professional scribe

viii DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS, 1605-1620.

How this document (which, one would think, would naturally have found a place in some Danish

—which latter seems to be the more probable—cannot be decided in the absence of even the smallest authenticated scrap of Hall's own handwriting. The text extends over 11 pages, ending at the foot of the front page of the seventh leaf, the back of which does not exhibit any writing. On the front page of the eighth leaf is written in red:—"The Demonstration of the fordes, rivers, and the coste", and on the reverse of this leaf the first map is drawn. The description of, or key to, that map occupies the opposite page (*viz.*, the front page of the ninth leaf), on the back of which the second map is drawn. The tenth, eleventh, and front of the twelfth leaf are similarly occupied by maps and their descriptions, but the back of the last-named folio contains nothing of the kind, though it is prepared for a map, as are also the back pages of the remaining leaves, excepting the last. As, however, they have not been utilized, the manuscript ends virtually on the twelfth leaf. On all the pages intended for maps (13 in number), the rectangle formed by the border-lines is divided into quarters by black lines, and a compass is drawn—rather carelessly—in the centre. On all of them, the fleur-de-lys (or "fly") of the compass has been originally drawn pointing to the right, but subsequently erased. On the eight last map-pages, it has been redrawn in the same position, over the erasure; but, on the first five of these pages, it has been replaced by another, pointing upwards. As regards the maps themselves, we refer the reader to our reproductions. As, however, these have had to be done in black only, in order to save expense, it should be noticed that the originals are coloured. They appear to have been originally drawn—the outlines at least—with a lead pencil, and afterwards blackened with ink. The water is tinted a pale dirty blue; the land, light green; the mountains, dark brown. In addition to the border-lines, the reference-letters on the maps, as well as the corresponding letters in the descriptions, and the headings of the descriptions, are in red. The compasses of all four maps are coloured red, blue, and yellow; and the Royal Arms of Denmark on the fourth map are roughly, but, as far as it goes, correctly, blazoned in colours.

Archives) came to this country and found its way to the Royal Collection of MSS. is not known; but more than one way can be imagined in which this may have come about. The most probable explanation is, perhaps, indicated by the fact that the MS. is prepared for more maps than the four we have. The Report announces itself as written in the year 1605—as, indeed, Hall's original account must have been, because the King would require an immediate report on the exploration of the coast, which formed a primary object of the voyage. But, as it is not at all likely that Hall would have had time then to elaborate a document like the one before us, the probability is that he submitted a preliminary account, accompanied by some sketches sufficient for the purpose, and that he afterwards, at his leisure, prepared a finished copy for presentation on some future occasion. Supposing (which is by no means improbable) that the sketches brought home from the first voyage were not quite sufficient for the purpose, Hall may, on the second voyage, have supplemented them, as far as the localities then visited were concerned; and he may have postponed the execution of the remaining maps until he should have visited the other places a second time, for which he would naturally expect to have an opportunity in 1607. As, however, in that year, he was ordered to proceed to a different part of Greenland, and as, after that, the expeditions were discontinued, Hall may never have been able to finish the maps; and, when his engagement in Denmark terminated

X DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS, 1605-1620.

soon after, he may have carried the document with him to England and even finished it here.¹

Whether a similar report on the second voyage ever existed is not known, but it is not probable, because the geographical exploration of the country was not, on that occasion, further extended.

A comparison between Hall's Report to the King and his account of the first voyage, as printed in *Purchas his Pilgrims*, shows that the latter, upon the whole, is fuller, containing a number of details which would interest a general reader, but which would not be in their proper place in a Report to the King, such as the names of the ships and their commanders, many details of navigation, etc. The principal addition is a so-called "Topographical Description of Greenland", evidently written as an entirely separate piece, a kind of appendix to the

¹ This is Mr. Gosch's view. It seems to me more probable that an official report to the King of Denmark would be made in Danish, rather than in English, even though the reporter was an Englishman, and though the King is known to have had many other trusted English servants, who could at any moment have translated the report for him. I cannot, therefore, regard the interesting MS. in the British Museum as the actual *original* Report to the King. It appears to me more likely that the MS. was either Hall's first draft, from which a translation intended for the King (and now lost) was made, or a copy of his Report to the King which Hall retained for his own private use. It is quite possible, as suggested by Mr. Markham (*Voyages of Baffin*, p. xxi), that, whatever this MS. is, Hall retained it, and brought it with him to England, and presented it to King James; or it is just conceivable that it is a copy sent by the King of Denmark (Christian IV), as a matter of courtesy, to his brother-in-law King James.—M. C.

account of the whole voyage, which the editor, in an extremely clumsy manner, has thrust into the middle of it—viz., in the place where Hall's account of his excursion in the smaller vessel would have stood, if he had given one. It seems as if Purchas had felt that something was wanting here, and had tried to fill up the gap by means of this piece. It has a separate heading and commences quite abruptly, without any connexion with the preceding ; but the conclusion is worked up with the continuation of Hall's account of the voyage. Apart from these differences, and the one other particular point alluded to above, the agreement between the two accounts with regard to what is told, how it is told, and, not least, with regard to what is *not* told, is so close that the account printed by Purchas may properly be described as an amplification of the Report, done of course by Hall himself from his notes, and so far equally original, but with a view to publication, and very likely intended to be entrusted to Hakluyt, from whom Purchas most probably obtained it at the death of the former in 1618, as he did many other narratives.¹ There is, however (as already mentioned), one very important difference between the account in Purchas and the Report, viz., that the former is not accompanied by maps, nor is there any mention of, or reference to, any such. If the two narratives had not, in other respects, been so closely alike as they are, there would have been

¹ See *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, vol. i, Preface to the Reader.

xii DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS, 1605-1620.

nothing particularly noteworthy in this fact. But, under the circumstances, it is remarkable that Hall, in this later account, should have, as it were, skipped his exploring excursion in the pinnace, exactly in the same manner as he does in the Report to the King, and yet not have referred his readers to maps, as he does in the Report. If he had not intended the account printed in Purchas to be accompanied by the maps, surely he would have given a description of this excursion, as of course he could easily have done. It is true that Purchas himself says that the account which he prints is “abbreviated” from the original, and in many places there is evidence of this abbreviation having been done with too little care. But it cannot be supposed for a moment that whoever executed this abbreviation would have left out what could not but be regarded as one of the most important portions of the narrative. It seems, therefore, most probable that Hall intended his account to be accompanied by copies of the maps with which his Report to the King was illustrated, and that his account originally contained references to them, similar to those contained in this last-mentioned document, but that Purchas (or whoever arranged the narrative for publication) suppressed the allusions to the maps, as he did not intend to publish the latter.

It is, of course, quite possible that Purchas may never have come into possession of the maps ; but, in that case, we believe it must be assumed that the abbreviation of the accounts was not done by

him, because it seems to be proved by a certain passage in a note appended to the account of the second voyage that the person who brought Hall's narratives into the shape in which we now have them in Purchas was acquainted with the maps. The note in question (see pp. 79-80) consists of disjointed statements, evidently culled from Hall's unabbreviated narrative by somebody who appears to have considered that they ought not to have been omitted from the abstract, and, therefore, added them at the end. One of these statements is the following: "Bredaransies Ford is most northerly." Now the locality here alluded to was visited by Hall on his exploring excursion in the pinnace in 1605, and was shown on his map under the name of "Brade Ranson's Ford"; but it is not mentioned in his narratives, because in that of the first voyage nothing is said about the geographical results of the excursion, and on the second voyage the place in question was not visited. Whoever wrote this note must, therefore, have seen the maps; and, if any proof were wanted that this was not Hall himself, we have it in the corruption of the name, which can not reasonably be attributed to Hall. If Purchas wrote the note, he must have had this information from the map (IV, *ℓ*); and, as he is known to have suppressed Baffin's map,¹ he may have suppressed

¹ See *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, vol. iii, p. 847, *note*; also Markham's *Voyages of William Baffin*, p. liv.

xiv DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS, 1605-1620.

Hall's also. At the same time, in favour of the supposition that he received the narrative in the state in which he printed it, we may adduce the consideration that, if he had himself collected these additional statements from Hall's original MS., he would probably have inserted them in the abstract in their proper places, instead of presenting them to his readers in such a crude form. In any case, whether Purchas or another wrote the note, this much is certain: That, not only was the abbreviation made and the note written, but the accounts of Hall, in their present form, and his maps were seen by persons interested in Arctic Research before 1612, because several of Hall's local names mentioned in these accounts (and particularly also "Bredrans's R.") appear, more or less corrupted, on the map published in 1612 by Hessel Gerritsz. The date may even have been earlier, because Gerritsz's map is generally (and no doubt rightly) supposed to be, in the main, a reproduction of Hudson's "card", which (apart from the portions discovered by Hudson himself) may be taken as representing his ideas of the results of arctic explorations previous to his own setting out in 1610. If those names were found on Hudson's "card" (as is quite possible), he must have had access to Hall's accounts, or to information derived from them. We have, however, no means of knowing whether those names were on the "card"; and it is, perhaps, more probable that Hessel Gerritsz put them on his map from informa-