INTRODUCTION.

It appears from the letters and papers of Captain Hall, purchased by the Government from his widow and now in possession of the Navy Department, that the expedition of the Polaris to the Arctic regions originated with him and was carried into execution according to his own plans.

During two prolonged residences among the Esquimaux—a period, to use his own language, of "about eight years"—he repeatedly speaks of his desire and purpose to lead such an expedition. Indeed, as far back as the beginning of the year 1863, in a letter written to Mr. J. C. Cist, of Saint Louis, shortly after his return from his first expedition, he says: "My third voyage to the Arctic regions will be (D. V.) for discovery, to the northern axis of the great globe." This resolution he steadily maintained until the opportunity presented itself for carrying it into execution.
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In order to show this more fully, and to furnish at the same time the means of making a just estimate of his character and purpose, the following extracts are given from his journal:

"April 14, 1865.—We are nearly all ready for the proposed removal. North, north, farther and farther NORTH, I long to get. Though the locality of King William's Land is all I aspire to on this present journey, yet I never will be satisfied in voyaging and traveling in the Arctic regions until I shall reach that spot of this great and glorious orb of God's creation where there is no North, no East, no West. Of course, that mundane point is the one nearly under Polaris."

"March 4, 1866.—The end will soon be, I trust, when I shall have done what I came to this country to do, and then may God grant me the opportunity and the proper means to make my way to the north extreme of His glorious earth."

"February 16, 1869.—I must (Deo volente) do up all my work for which I came into this country this spring and coming summer, for I long to return to America, to prepare at once for my expedition to the North Pole. Night and day, day and night, weeks, months, and years, find my heart and purposes fixed, without a shadow of wavering, on making that voyage. May Heaven spare my life to perform it."
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The following extract is from a letter written in 1869 to Mr. A. B. Johnson, president of the Teachers’ Institute of Hamilton County, Ohio, on accepting an invitation to lecture before the Institute:

“Although the primary object of my voyages to the North has not been for geography, yet I have been enabled to make considerable advance in geographical discoveries. There is a great sad blot upon the present age, which ought to be wiped out, and this is the blank on our maps and artificial globes from about the parallel of 80° North up to the North Pole. I, for one, hang my head in shame, when I think how many thousands of years ago it was that God gave to man this beautiful world—the whole of it—to subdue, and yet that part of it which must be most interesting and glorious, at least so to me, remains as unknown to us as though it had never been created. Having now completed my Arctic collegiate education, I feel to spend my life in extending our knowledge of the earth up to that spot which is directly under Polaris—the crowning jewel of the Arctic dome. I hope to start on my next voyage next spring. Shortly, I expect to apply to our Government for its aid, feeling that the day has come when the great problem of ages on ages must be solved under the stars and stripes.”

March 29, 1870, he writes to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:
"For years I have had it in my mind that when I should complete the mission relative to Sir John Franklin's expedition—that is, should recover some of Franklin's companions, or should become satisfied that none existed—I would return to my country and prepare for making a third voyage to the Arctic regions, especially for making geographical discoveries, even up to the north extremity of the axis of our globe. * * * * * *

Neither glory nor money has caused me to devote my very life and soul to Arctic exploration."

These quotations are given precisely in the form and language in which they were written. Hall had expressed himself in like terms to that fast friend of this, as of previous Arctic explorations, Mr. Henry Grinnell of New York City, writing to him from Washington on the 8th of March, 1870, thus: "In three to five years, I doubt not, with the same aid and protection of high Heaven as on my two previous Arctic voyages, I would fully accomplish the determination of my burning soul, which determination, my dear Mr. Grinnell, you know to be to put my foot on the north extremity of the axis of the globe."
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Thus it appears that Captain Hall, in single-minded devotion to the cause of Arctic exploration, is worthy to be placed by the side of Parry, Franklin, and Kane. This devotion was not merely a sentiment; on the contrary, during his long residence among the Esquimaux, his constant aim was to qualify himself for this service by adopting, throughout, the Esquimaux mode of life; by habituating himself to their manners and customs; and by acquiring a practical knowledge of the geography of the Arctic regions and of the native mode of traveling. On his return from this region in 1869, he immediately began, by lecturing in various parts of the United States, to mature a public opinion favorable to his enterprise. After lecturing in New York, Brooklyn, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and several other cities as far west as Indianapolis, he went to Washington and commenced those efforts which terminated successfully in procuring the appropriation granted by Congress for the Polaris Expedition.
I.
CHAPTER I.

Captain Hall arrived in Washington January 30, 1870. A few days after his arrival he called on the President of the United States, who manifested so great an interest in the proposed Arctic researches as to draw from Hall a statement of his life and experiences among the Esquimaux. Hall was strongly impressed not only by the President’s sympathy and kindness but also by the knowledge he displayed of the whole field of Arctic exploration.

It may be stated here, once for all, that the authority for everything relating to Hall, personally, is derived from his correspondence chiefly addressed to the late Mr. Henry Grinnell of New York, and to Mr. J. Carson Brevoort of Brooklyn.

On the 2d of March he accepted an invitation to lecture on his “Arctic Expeditions, Past and Prospective,” signed by the Vice-President, by members of the Cabinet, Senators, Representatives, and citizens of Wash-
Hall's Lecture in Washington.

1870. This lecture, delivered March 5th in Lincoln
Hall, was attended by the President and by many dis-
tinguished citizens in public and private life, who mani-
fested a deep interest in Captain Hall's work.

In a private letter to his friend, Mr. Grinnell, he
speaks of this fact with feeling, and dwells particularly on
the marks of approbation which the mention of the appro-
priation for the proposed expedition elicited. The histori-
cal part of this lecture, illustrated by maps and charts,
related chiefly to the expedition of Franklin, and the fate
of his officers and men. Next to this, that which most
engaged the attention of the audience was a full descrip-
tion of Esquimaux habits and life, domestic and nomadic,
in all particulars; exemplified, to some extent by the
natives Ebierbing (Joe), and Tookolitoo (Hannah), his
wife, who were present with their child Punny (Syl\textit{via}).

On the 8th of March, 1870, a joint resolution relative to a voyage to the Arctic regions was introduced in
the House of Representatives by Hon. J. Stevenson,
of Ohio, which, after having been read a second time,
was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. This
committee had been already prepared for the subject by
memorials proceeding from distinguished sources in vari-
ous parts of the country.

On the 25th of March, 1870, Hon. John Sherman,
of Ohio, obtained the unanimous consent of the Senate to