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After the expedition of Sir John Franklin went missing in the Arctic, a series of search missions were sent out in an attempt to discover its fate. Two of these were funded by, and named after, the American shipping magnate Henry Grinnell (1799–1874), the second of which was launched in 1853. With the brig *Advance* trapped in ice off the coast of northern Greenland, the expedition's surgeon Isaac Israel Hayes (1832–81) set out in August 1854 with a party of men towards Upernavik. This 1860 publication traces nearly four months spent struggling against horrendous Arctic conditions. Also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection are *The Open Polar Sea* (1867) and *The Land of Desolation* (1871), Hayes's account of a more leisurely cruise along the coast of Greenland. Also available is *Arctic Explorations* (1856), a two-volume account of the second Grinnell expedition by its leader, Elisha Kent Kane (1820–57).

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IN THE AUTUMN OF 1854.

BY

ISAAC I. HAYES,

SURGEON OF THE SECOND GRINNELL EXPEDITION.



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I dedicate this Book to the Companions who shared
with me the Fortunes which it records.

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PREFACE.

THE readers of the narrative of Dr. Kane will remember that, in the autumn of 1854, eight persons, being a portion of the officers and crew of the brig *Advance*, then in Rensselaer Harbor, made an attempt to reach Upernavik, in North Greenland, the nearest outpost of civilization. The party were absent during nearly four months, and they returned to the brig unsuccessful.

It was the wish of Dr. Kane to receive from me a written report of the journey; but as I was disabled at the time of my return, he accepted one from my dictation; and, under the impression that he was thus possessed of all that he required, I gave no further attention to the subject. It subsequently appeared that I was in error; for, when his narrative was going through the press, he informed me that my verbal report was too meagre for his use, and that he had expected a more complete state-

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ment of the principal events. Before I could act upon this information, I was prostrated by fever; and, as Dr. Kane's manuscript was put into type as fast as prepared, and was immediately stereotyped, the opportunity was unavoidably lost to me.

After the publication of the main narrative of the expedition, my own memoranda appeared too insignificant to justify the issue of a separate volume. My friends and other persons represented to me, from time to time, that even minute details of life in a region so remote, so peculiar, and so little known as that in which I had passed nearly a third of a year, would not fail to interest the general reader; but it needed a stronger inducement than such persuasions to overcome my reluctance to issue a book.

Having undertaken to conduct another expedition toward the North Pole, as soon as my countrymen will furnish the moderate outfit required for this object, my time and efforts have been exclusively devoted to the necessary preliminary measures. My experienced publishers having encouraged me to believe, not only that a somewhat extended report of the incidents of the journey of 1854 would be acceptable to the public, but also that it would probably contribute towards the expenses of my

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preparations, I have yielded to the temptation offered by their favorable judgment, and their liberal readiness to assume the risks of the press.

Beside the foregoing explanation of the motives which have led to the issuing of the following pages, the reader is requested to bear in mind that they contain a record chiefly of personal adventure, the interest of which is dependent, for the most part, upon the strangeness of the place and circumstances.

I. I. H.

PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 1, 1860.

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- III. The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
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