How Captain H. W. Howgate, of the Signal Service, Proposes to

Chicago Times. The expedition of Capt. Hall in the Polaris in 1871 and of Captain Nares in the Alert and Discovery in 1875 have shown that by the use of steam it is a comparatively easy matter to reach the entrance to Robeson's channel in latitude 81 degrees north, and that the serious difficulties to be overcome in reaching the pole lie beyond that point. Parties from the two expeditions have made five surveys 140 miles north of this, leaving only about 400 miles of unexplored region be-

geographers—the pole. When Capt. Hall resched the upper extremity of Robeson's channel, the lookout of the Polaris reported open water in sight and just beyond the pack which surrounded the vessel and prevented further progress. This open water was afterward seen from the cape at the northern opening of Newman's bay, and it was the opinion of the crew of that ill-fated vessel that if she had been but the fraction of an hour earlier in reaching the channel they would have steamed unobstructed over a veritable "open sea" to the pole itself. We know that they did not succeed but were forced to winter almost within sight of this sea, and subsequently, disheartened by the loss of their gallant commander, abandoned the enterprise.

Where this open water was found Capt. Nares in 1875 and 1876 found solid, impenetrable ice, through which no vessel could force its way, and over which it was equally im-

possible for sledge parties to work. These facts show that within the Arctic circle the seasons vary as markedly as in more temperate southern latitudes, and that the icy barriers to the pole are sometime broken up by favoring winds and temperature. To reach the pole, prompt advantage must be taken of such favoring circumstances, and to do this with the greatest certainty, and the least expenditure of time, money, and human life, it is essential that the exploring party be on the ground at the very time the ice gives way and opens the gateway to the long-sought prize.

This can only be done by colonizing a few hardy, resolute, and experienced men at some point near the borders of the Polar sea, and the most favorable one for the purpose appears to be that where the Discovery wintered last year. Such a party should consist of at least twenty men, and should be provided with provisions and other necessary supplies for three years, at the end of which period they should be visited, and, if still unsuccessful in accomplishing the object, revictualed and again left to their work.

Capt. Hall spent eight years among the E-quimaux, a d each year found himself better fitted to withstand the severity of the Arctic circle, and the party of which I speak would, in like manner, become ac climated and eventually succeed in accomplishing the long-sought end With a strong, substantiat building, such as could easily be carried on ship board, the party could be made as comfortable and as safe from atmospheric dangers as are the men of the signal service stationed on the summits of Pike's peak and Mount Washington, or the employes of the Hudson's Bay Company stationed at Fort York, where a temperature of minus 60 degrees is not uncommon. A good supply of medicine, a skillful surgeon, and such fresh provisions as could be found by hunting parties would enable them to keep . If scurvy and to maintain as good a sanitary condition as the inhabitants of Godhaven, in

Greenland. Game was found in fair quanti ties by the Polaris party on the Greenland coast, and those from the Alert and Discovery on the main land to the west, especially in the vicinity of the last-named vessel where 54 musk oxen were killed of good coal was also found by the Discovery's party, which would ren der the question of fuel a light one, and thus remove one of the greatest difficulties hitherto found by Arctic

Let an expedition be organized to start in the spring of 1877, and I firmly believe that by 1880 the geography of the Polar circle would be definitely settled, and that without loss of life.

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nicipal governments. It will inculcate a steadfast rehance upon the original principles of our political system as the only sound basis of all needed improve ments therein; an unfaltering de-votion to the constitution and the union, a scrupulous fidelity to the spirit as well as the letter of our laws, and a sleepless vigilance in maintaining all the great safeguards of civil and religious liberty. It will seek to mitigate and not to aggravate the evils inseparable from party government in a free country; to promote good and not ill feeling among our fellow.citizens of all creeds and colors, all sections and all sects; and to advance both by its precepts and by its example the reign of reason and of law over prejudice and passion in all our public action and in the discussion of all public affairs.

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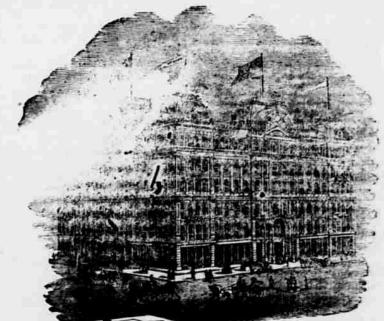
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