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Remarks on the Weather, Winds, and Ice in the Arctic Seas during the Past Season, As Affecting the Prospects of the Arctic Expedition. From Observations in Davis Straits and Baffin Bay, 1875

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cisely given, they must stand over for the present. The boiling-point observations, by two instruments of different makers, are to be preferred. From the fact of Captain Speke and Mr. Stanley observing near the same spot and with the same class of instrument, their observations can fairly be compared. The same method and tables have therefore been used for both observers—viz., the Meteorological Tables by A. Guyot—with the following results:—

	Feet.
Captain Speke on his map gives	3740
Mr. Stanley's observations give	3808
	68
Difference	

And this difference may be greatly reduced when the Kew verification has been ascertained.

2. *Remarks on the Weather, Winds, and Ice in the Arctic Seas during the past Season, as affecting the Prospects of the Arctic Expedition. From Observations in Davis Straits and Baffin Bay, 1875. By Captain ADAMS, Whaling Ship Arctic.*

ON 12th of May, 1875, I was with my ship in the vicinity of Cape Farewell, where I found heavy ice of the usual rugged hummocky character. This ice is brought from Spitzbergen by the Polar current by way of the Island of Jan Mayen and south coast of Greenland. Sometimes difficulty is found in getting through it, but this year I got through with little or no trouble.

I made the south-west pack in the neighbourhood of Resolution Island, which bore from me 120 miles distant to the west. The ice here was of a lighter character than usual, owing, no doubt, to the mildness of the past winter. No whales were to be seen, the banks being covered with ice far to the eastward. I then proceeded north and reached Godhaven, in the Island of Disco, on the 20th of May, where I landed letter-bags for the Danish Government. The natives here informed me that the winter had been very mild, with a cold spring following. On leaving Disco I found large sheets of open water. No heavy barrier of ice at Hare Island, but the frost very intense. On the 23rd of May the thermometer stood 4° to 5° below zero, a very unusual circumstance in this quarter at this season of the year. The frost being so keen the young ice formed very rapidly, so much so, that my powerful vessel, *The Arctic*, was almost stopped. After several days' boring I reached Upernavik, where my ideas as to the past winter having been exceptionally mild, but followed by a severe spring, were confirmed by Mr. Thuekason, the Governor of the settlement, who informed me that at Christmas the natives were pulling about in their kyaks on the water, hunting seals and visiting the neighbouring settlements—facts which have seldom been known before at that time of year.

On leaving Upernavik I found some difficulty in getting north towards Melville Bay, but passed through the Bay with little more trouble than in any of the mild seasons which have been experienced during the past few years. On arriving at Dalrymple Rock I took on board some natives belonging to the Arctic Highlanders of Ross and Parry. These natives were moving north from Cape York and Eider Duck Islands towards Etah, and I told them of the Expedition, asking them to keep a look-out for it. On the 5th of June I was glad to reach the North Water, about three miles north of Fitzclarence Rock, and passed close to the southward of Carey

Islands on the same day. Here there was a long rolling swell on the sea, which gave me the impression that there was a large extent of open water to the northward. From this date, with scarcely an interval to the end of the voyage, east and north-east winds prevailed. After a short stay in Lancaster Sound, I came out and cruised in Baffin Bay during the remainder of the fishing season. About the 14th of October, I met a large pack of No. 1 ice. This ice, owing to the prevalence of north-east winds, could not have come out of Jones or Lancaster Sounds, and as Whale and Murchison Sounds are of limited extent, so much heavy ice could not have come from that quarter; it must therefore have come from Smith Sound. This leads me to think that the season has been much more favourable for getting up Smith Sound than for any work towards the west, say by Lancaster Sound. Although the spring this year in the Arctic Regions was late and cold, the summer and fall were mild and remarkably clear from fogs, and, in my opinion, very favourable for the ships of the Arctic Expedition attaining a high latitude before being forced to betake themselves to winter quarters. Altogether, looking at all the circumstances, such as the mildness of the seasons this and the past few years, the state of the ice, the indications of open water to the north towards Smith Sound, and the long-continued prevalence of easterly winds, which are very favourable for opening a passage on the route taken by the ships, I am quite sanguine as to the success of the Expedition. The ships are well suited for the work, and were, from what I hear, in every way thoroughly equipped for the service. The known ability and energy of the officers—some of whom I have the pleasure of knowing personally—and the courage and endurance of their crews, are sufficient guarantees that nothing possible to be done will be left undone in order to achieve the object in view, and I therefore anticipate for them a successful return, crowned with hard-won laurels, proving themselves worthy upholders of the long line of hardy British Arctic discoverers who have preceded them, including names such as Franklin, Ross, Parry, and many more, who have shed undying lustre on their country's fame by their deeds of daring in the regions of the far North.