

PROPOSED NEW BRITISH POLAR EXPEDITION.

Our readers are probably aware, says the London *Graphic*, that an influential Central Committee has been formed, to which forty-nine provincial committees are affiliated, for the purpose of organizing an expedition to the North Pole on the plan recommended by Commander Cheyne, R. N., who is strongly of opinion that balloons will form an important element in all future Arctic explorations.

Our illustration depicts the three balloons as ready to start from the winter quarters of the ship during the first week in June, their destination being the North Pole. The average temperature in the early part of June is about 25° Fah. The balloons are named Enterprise, Resolute, and Discovery; each will be capable of lifting a ton in weight, the three carrying a sledge party intact, with stores and provisions for fifty-one days. The ascent will be made on the curve of a roughly ascertained wind circle, a continuation of which curve will carry them to the Pole, but should the said curve deflect, then the required current of air can again be struck by rising to the requisite altitude, as proved by experiments that different currents of air exist according to altitude; this fact Commander Cheyne himself observed when, in charge of the government balloons in his last expedition, he sent up four at the same moment to different altitudes; being differently weighted, they took four different directions to the four quarters of the compass, giving him his first practical idea of ballooning in the Arctic regions. Captain Temple's experiments with the war balloons from Woolwich Arsenal have fully confirmed this important desideratum in aerostation.

About thirty hours would suffice to float our aeronauts from the ship to the Pole, should all go well. We asked Commander Cheyne how he was going to get back; his answer was cautious: "According to circumstances," he said, "My first duty is to get there. When there leave it to us to get back. We have many uncertainties to deal with, and a definite programme made now might be entirely changed when the time came to carry out the journey south. Condensed gas would be taken in steel cylinders, hills would be floated over by expansion and contraction of the balloons, and in the event of any accident occurring, we always have our sledge party with sledge, boat, stores, and provisions for fifty days intact and ready for service." Scotland has taken up this novelty in Arctic exploration with avidity, and England, though more cautious in the matter, has at last given her adhesion to the project being carried out. Canada is likely to join, and Commander Cheyne has received an invitation from the Canadian Minister of Finance, Sir Samuel Tilley, K.C.B., to deliver his lectures in Canada, with the promise of a warm reception.

Atlantic Temperatures.

From the coast-station observations of the Weather Bureau it appears that the maximum temperature of the water in the months of July and August respectively is: At Jacksonville,

Florida, 87.75 and 88.25 degrees; at Charleston, S. C., 86.00 and 87.25 degrees; at Wilmington, N. C., 85.50 and 83.50; at Norfolk, 81.00 and 82.25; at New London, Conn., 70.66 and 74.00; at Wood's Holl, Mass. (near Nantucket), 76.25 and 75.25; and at Portland, Me., 60.25 and 60.50 degrees. A very noticeable fact, apparently established by these data, is that the sea water bathing on the coasts and inlets all the way up to Portland is slightly warmer in August than in July, the greatest difference noted being found at New London, where the August temperature is three and a third degrees higher than that of the preceding month. If we tabulate all the observations from Jacksonville to Portland, the average temperature for July is 78.24 degrees, against 78.85 for August.

The lowest August temperatures of the water at Norfolk average 72.00 degrees; at New London, 65.25; and at Wood's Holl, Mass., 69.00. There are no reports for Cape Cod and the Jersey beach, but it is probably safe to assume that the waters on the latter are seldom, if ever, chilled below 70 degrees in August, and that on the east sides of Cape Cod and thence to Newport it is rarely that the August sea temperature falls below 69 degrees.

Timber in the English Colonies.

The English Government has been collecting information from the colonies as to their timber supply. It appears that during the five years ending 1876, Canada sent England about \$125,000,000 worth of timber. In Nova Scotia the approximate amount of timber-producing land was, in 1875, computed at 9,000,000 acres; in Ontario, 30,000 square miles; in Quebec, 73,711,114 acres; New Brunswick, 6,000,000 acres. In British Columbia about 110,000,000 acres are covered with timber. Newfoundland, too, is densely wooded, but forest fires have there, as also to a considerable degree in Canada, made serious inroads. In Natal (Africa) the Crown forests have for some time been suffering so seriously from the depredations of the natives that the surveyor-general has absolutely prohibited the use of forest lands for the cultivation of crops.

It is computed that Cape Colony has between 500 and 600 square miles of forest. Between 1868 and 1878 British Honduras sent 34,000,000 feet of mahogany. In Victoria, Australia, timber is diminishing far too rapidly, and in western Australia the Governor thinks that steps must be taken to arrest destruction. In Queensland an annual license fee is exacted from wood cutters, and an officer has been appointed to report on the public timber-producing lands, with a view to their conservation. Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) has about 8,000,000 acres under timber, of which about 1,000,000 are in private hands. In Ceylon steps were some times since taken to arrest reckless destruction. In Queensland and South Australia the clearing of the forests has produced no effect whatever on the rainfall. In St. Helena, on the other hand, where the destruction of the trees shortly after colonization of the island was followed by a succession of severe and de-

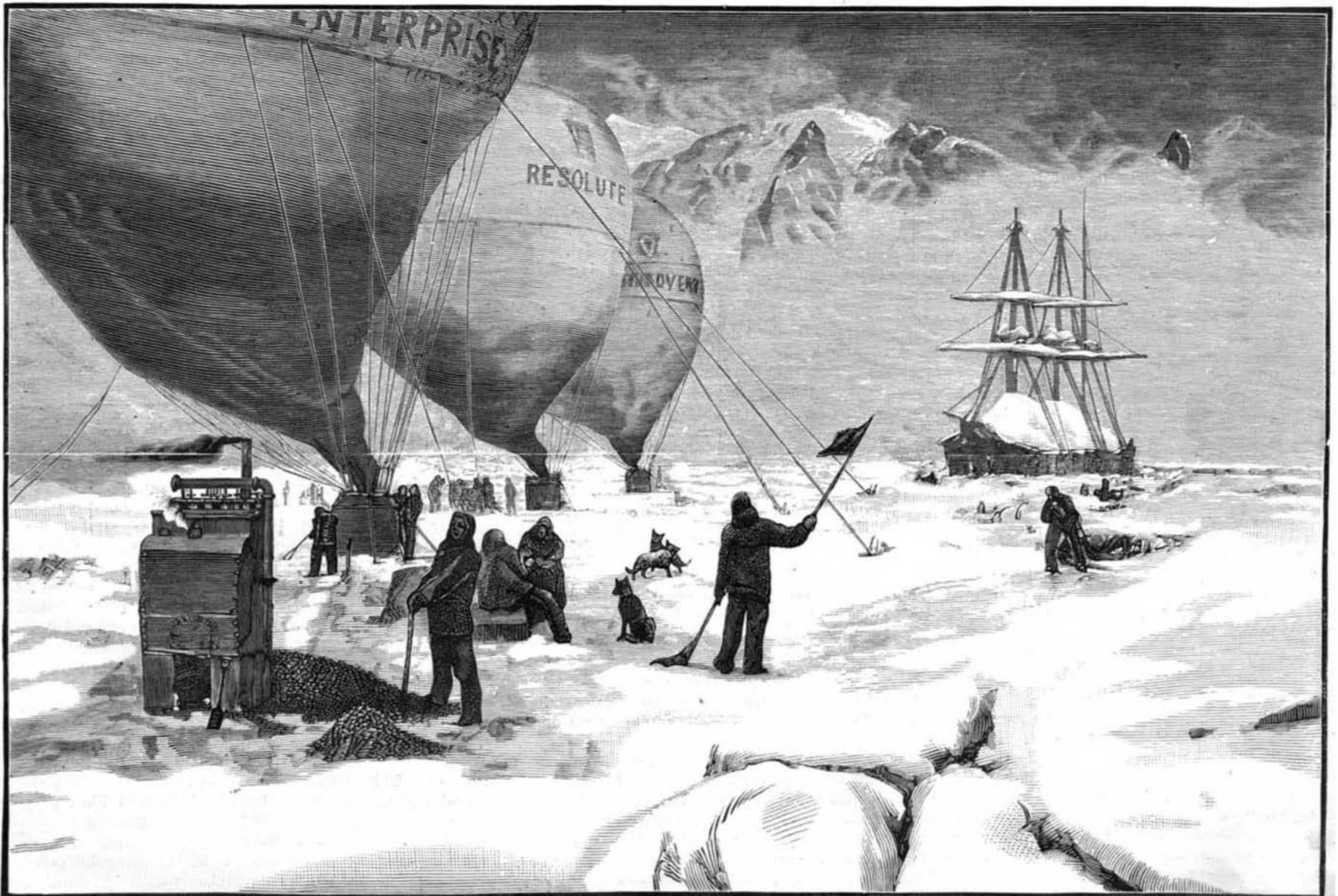
structive droughts, now that the forests have been allowed to grow again there has been much less trouble on that score. The climate of Jamaica is reported much drier of late years in the south side of the island, where the greatest clearances have been made.

IODINE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR QUININE.

The power possessed by iodine over malarial troubles seems to have been known many years ago, but the knowledge was evidently confined to few, and not appreciated as it ought to be. Recently several physicians have recorded their experience with this drug, and among others Dr. Wm. Anderson, who gives a highly favorable account of it in the *Proceedings of the Medical Society of the County of Kings*.

Dr. Anderson's experience with the remedy dates back about five years, when, meeting a statement that iodine was a reliable remedy in intermittent fevers, he resolved to give it a thorough trial. He therefore prescribed it in the form of the simple tincture to a number of patients. After watching the results very carefully, he became thoroughly convinced that he had a valuable remedy, and from that time to this he has invariably, with a few exceptions, prescribed iodine in all his cases of intermittent fever, both in private and dispensary practice. He states that up to the present time he has treated at least 300 cases in this manner, and with almost invariable success. The time required to effect a cure naturally varied. In a large number there was no paroxysm after the first dose; frequently it took two or three days before any mitigation was observed. Iodine is so seldom prescribed internally that most physicians look with suspicion on the idea of substituting it for quinine, and think that the stomach would not tolerate it. Dr. Anderson says that this mistaken notion is merely the result of inexperience; he has had but one patient who could not retain it, but neither could she retain quinine. He has found that children take it readily, and in giving it to such patients he has not had a fraction of the trouble that he formerly experienced with quinine. Although he formerly used simple tincture of iodine in sirup and water with good effect, he has recently found it advisable to add iodide of potassium to the mixture to prevent precipitation of the iodine. For adults he prescribes 12 to 15 minims of this compound tincture, freely diluted, to be taken three times a day after meals, and regardless of fever. For children, 5 to 10 minims usually suffice. The author's favorite prescription in private practice is: Tincture of iodine comp., 6 drachms; sirup of acacia, 18 drachms. Mix. Dose: teaspoonful in wineglassful of water three times a day, after food. Dr. Anderson states that he has never as yet observed any injurious effects from the internal exhibition of iodine, especially the symptoms designated as "iodism."

Why this drug should act so beneficially must remain an open question till we know more about the disease itself. It is worthy of note, however, that the remedies usually employed in malarial troubles have marked antiseptic proper-



PROPOSED NEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—COMMANDER CHEYNE'S PLAN FOR REACHING THE NORTH POLE.