

## THE ARCTIC POLE.

The Arctic, or North Pole, is the only one which has been carefully explored by man ; for his commercial interests have led him to prosecute his investigations in this direction with unquailing ardour, while the Antarctic Seas present no attractions to human enterprise.

And yet, despite the numerous expeditions which for two centuries have traversed the ocean of the North, in search of a free passage by the north-west to the golden lands of India, the Arctic regions are far from being accurately known to geographers. Many navigators have been led into error by the mist and fog which cover them. In his first voyage, in 1818, Sir John Ross thought he saw

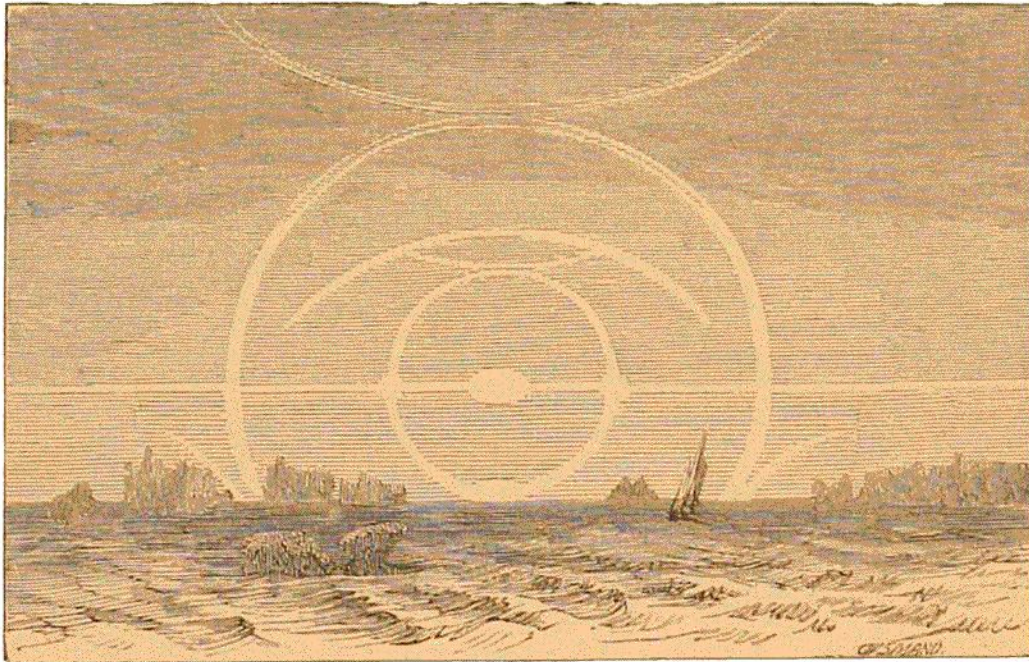


FIG. 235. — PARHELION, OR MOCK-SUN, IN THE POLAR SEAS.

Lancaster's Sound blocked up by a chain of mountains, which he named Croker Mountains. But in the following year Captain Parry discovered the mistake, and Ross was withdrawn from active service. It was due to the generosity of Sir Felix Booth, the opulent distiller, that, eleven years afterwards, he made a second exploring voyage in these regions. Of Parry's highly important voyage to the North Pole we shall give a few particulars.

He sailed from England, in 1819, with two ships, the *Hecla* and the *Griper*. He discovered Barrow's Straits, Wellington and Prince