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near Wellington Channel, where Sir Edward Belcher never served out a fresh meal to his ship's company.

Sir LEOPOLD M'CLINTOCK said he coincided with all the observations which Captain Hamilton had put forward in his paper; he should like to say a word as to the cause of these numerous water-spaces which were sometimes called Polynias. We never met with any of these water-spaces anywhere without also finding ample cause for them, in strong currents and tides. They were solely due to the action of tides sweeping away the ice as fast as it formed. They were common all along the coast of Greenland, and were known to the Esquimaux, who found the seals more abundant in them than elsewhere. Kane found a strong tide in Smith Sound, and it was there that his Polynia was placed, and it was there an abundance of animal life was found. Penny found strong tides in Wellington Channel, and there he also reported an "abundance of animal life." Of course, the ocean was frozen over elsewhere, and these animals sought out and congregated in large numbers wherever the sea was open, and this would account for the abundance of animal life; but it should be borne in mind that these spaces were exceedingly limited. With regard to land animals, they were more abundant in Melville Island than elsewhere, although the mean annual temperature of the island was perhaps as low as in any quarter where expeditions had wintered. He fully agreed with Captain Hamilton that nothing they had seen of late years led them to believe in the existence of a milder climate to the north. On the contrary, as far as we could see, the further we went to the north the temperature was more severe.

The PRESIDENT congratulated the Society on the admirable discussion which had taken place; a more instructive discussion he had never listened to. Their thanks were due to Captain Hamilton, and also to Sir Edward Belcher, Captain Osborn, and other Arctic officers, for the able manner in which they had marshalled interesting facts in support of their views.

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## ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(Printed by order of Council.)

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1. *Letter from T. K. LYNCH, Esq., F.R.G.S., on Consul TAYLOR'S Journey to the Source of the Euphrates.*

DEAR SIR,

I have just received from Mr. John George Taylor, her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom, the following account of the country in the immediate neighbourhood of Diadeen, and as it mentions the discovery of an active volcano, and some very peculiar sulphur springs, and enters minutely into the actual state of the country at the source of the Murad Su, or Euphrates, I have deemed the subject of sufficient interest to communicate it to the Society, particularly as the above features have not been described, as far as I am aware, by any other traveller. Texier, who travelled from Van by Ala Koë and Merc, passed too far to the eastward, and Mr. Brant, who skirted the lake from Van to Akhlat, and proceeded from that place by the Sapirs Dagh and Ardjish to Bayageed, and crossed the Ala Dagh far to the westward, over, as his account states, its highest range, where he notices the several rills which,

pouring down the northern slopes of that mountain into small basins, formed, he says, the source of the Euphrates; so that neither of these celebrated travellers, one passing to the eastward, the other to the westward, noticed the country now for the first time described by Mr. Taylor, who fortunately determined on a new path, an intermediate one, which he found extremely interesting, particularly in the immediate neighbourhood of Diadeen.

After visiting every place of interest round Lake Van, Mr. Taylor struck out an intermediate route, direct between Diadeen and Beggir Kalah, an old Armenian town, on the hills to the northern extremity of Lake Van; the road was good throughout, and the country on either side, though without trees, exhibited fine pasture and grass lands; half way to Diadeen, he came upon an active volcano, called the Soonderlik Dagh (oven mountain), not mentioned in the maps. Smoke was coming slowly out of the crater, and a rumbling noise was heard in the earth, reminding one of the portentous groans which, as is reported, preceded the great rupture of Vesuvius when Herculaneum was destroyed.

The volcanic formations about Diadeen were found to be extremely curious. The whole bed and valley of the Murad Su there is full of active sulphur geysers, too hot for the hand, some of them quiescent, and others burst up to the height of some eight or ten feet, every now and then subsiding as suddenly as they burst forth. At one place close to Diadeen, and to these sulphur springs, the Murad Su flows through a natural tunnel, at the top of which were seven or eight sulphur springs, which, as they overflow and run down the slope into the Murad Su on the south side, form sulphuric and saline deposits, which have become misshapen soft rocks, easily cut with a knife. Close to these rocks other springs of hot water form beautiful stalactites and petrifications in all kinds of colour and form. The stench and steam, however, at this point are most disagreeable, formed by the boiling sulphurous stream flowing down the sides and mixing with the cool clear water of the Murad Su fifty feet below. The main sulphur source was originally lower down the stream and in the plain, but the severe earthquake we had at Erzeroom three years ago effected a perfect change, the latter source having dried up, and those above mentioned having taken its place, and consequently the formations formed by these springs, which bulge out in irregular masses down to the river, date only from that period.

Passing through the tunnel, the river occupies the centre of a deep basalt gorge, with steep perpendicular sides, composed of irregular blocks of that stone from the mountains of the Ala Dagh. The gorge looks like an artificial ditch, purposely constructed to defend the small plain of Diadeen.

## 2. *Notes on the Burmese Route from Assam to the Hoocong Valley.*

By HENRY LIONEL JENKINS, Esq.

(Communicated by F. A. GOODENOUGH, Esq., F.R.G.S.)\*

WISHING to satisfy myself as to the practicability of opening out the old

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\* Extract from Mr. Goodenough's letter:—"Calcutta, 9th February, 1869. Dear Sir,—My friend, Mr. Henry Lionel Jenkins, has recently accomplished a trip to the top of the Patkoi range, which divides Upper Assam from Upper Burmah. Mr. Jenkins performed the journey in the hope of the sanction of the local Government here being granted to an exploration of the country between Assam and China, and in the general interests of science. The Patkoi range is very little known, but few explorers having ever surmounted its height; amongst whom I may mention Mr. Griffiths, in 1837, who went from Suddya to Bhamo and