

CHAPTER XXII

THE AFRICAN (ENDERBY) QUADRANT

(From Greenwich to 90° East)

THE most convenient topical method of treating antarctic explorations in detail is by quadrants. These quadrants by American designation are geographical, but the English have given them personal names, those of British explorers. The African or Enderby Quadrant covers longitudes from Greenwich to 90° E.; the Australian or Victoria Quadrant from 90° E., to 180° E.; the American or Weddell Quadrant from Greenwich to 90° W.; the Pacific or Ross Quadrant from 90° W. to 180° W.

Explorations in the African Quadrant were probably due to the dictum of Charles de Brosses, who predicted that "the most celebrated of modern sovereigns will be he who gives his name to the Southern World." France in 1772 sent Lozier-Bouvet, who passed through 50 degrees of longitude south of the 50th parallel. He found no continent, but discovered Bouvet Island, 54° 26' S., 3° 24' E. The same year Marion-Dufresne discovered the Marion and Crozet islands, and Kerguelen-Trémarec discovered Kerguelen Island, 49° 40' S., 69° 30' E.