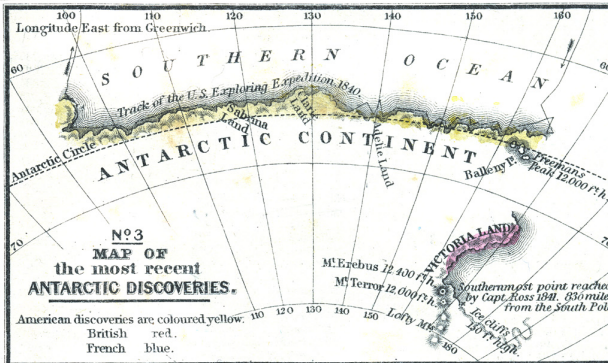


RECENT ANTARCTIC DISCOVERIES.

UNTIL the year 1819, no land was known to exist to the southward of the 60th deg. of south latitude. In that year, South Shetland, in 1821 South Orkney, in 1831 Enderby's Land, in the year following Graham's Land, and in 1839 Sabrina Land, and the Balleny Islands, were all discovered by British navigators. In 1821, the islands of Alexander I., and Peter I., were discovered by the Russians.

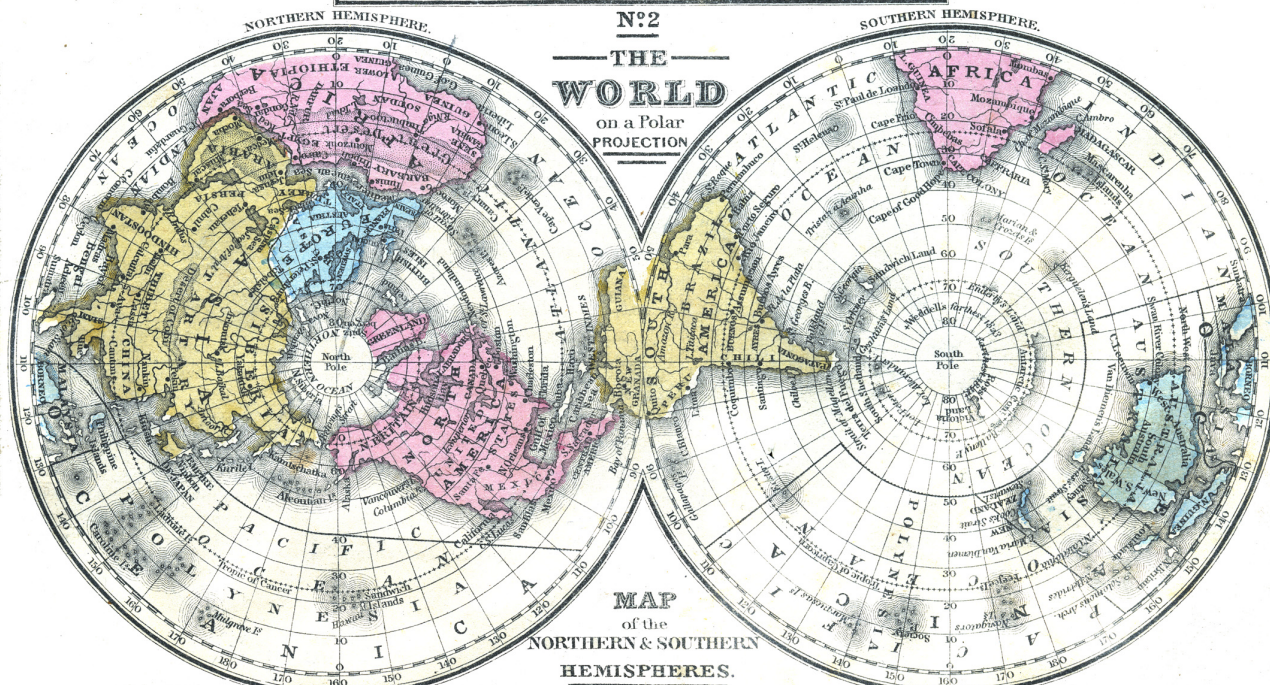
In August 1838, the U. S. Exploring Expedition, consisting of the Vincennes, Peacock, and some smaller vessels, under the command of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, sailed from Norfolk. On the 19th of January, 1840, a continent, situate about 2,000 miles south of Australia, was discovered by the expedition, and explored for a distance of 1,700 miles from East to West, com-



prising the greatest extent of land yet discovered in this quarter. On the same day, a part of the same coast was seen by Commodore D'Urville, with the French Exploring Corvettes, Astrolabe and Zelee.

In 1841, Captain J. C. Ross, commanding the British ships Erebus and Terror, discovered and explored a line of coast, extending southward to within 830 miles of the South Pole, being the nearest approach yet made to that point of the globe.

All these regions are barren and desolate, and without inhabitants: the land is all the time covered with ice and snow, and the coasts are for the most part bordered with vast masses of ice. Mount Erebus, near the most southern point reached by Capt. Ross, is an active Volcano, 12,400 feet high. Mount Terror, in the vicinity, is 12,000 feet, and Freeman's Peak, in one of the Balleny Islands, is about the same altitude.



Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1852 by S. Augustus Mitchell, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the eastern district of Pennsylvania.