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THE
L I F E
OF
DR. ELISHA KENT KANE,

AND OF OTHER
Distinguished American Explorers:

CONTAINING
NARRATIVES OF THEIR RESEARCHES AND ADVENTURES IN
REMOTE AND INTERESTING PORTIONS
OF THE GLOBE.

BY
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ALEXANDER HAMILTON," "ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS AND DISCOVERIES,"
"MEMOIR OF THOMAS JEFFERSON," "MEMORABLE SCENES
IN FRENCH HISTORY," ETC.

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PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL explorers and discoverers constitute a peculiar and distinct class of men; and in many respects their qualities and achievements are homogeneous. Yet, rich as is our literature in historical and biographical works, there is no single volume extant which contains a collection of the lives of the most distinguished Americans of this description. The present writer has endeavored to supply this deficiency, to some extent, in the following pages; and he has selected, as the subjects of his narrative, those individuals who seemed to him to be most remarkable in themselves and to possess the strongest hold on public interest and attention. In preparing this work, the author has appropriated to his use the most reliable sources of information which were accessible, without encroaching upon the rights of others; and an effort has been made to render the biographies as complete as the limits of a single volume would permit. These limits must be regarded as very circumscribed, when the amplitude and variety of the subject are taken into consideration; and hence the reader will observe that, in several of the concluding sections of the volume,