

intrepid associate, Dr. Richardson, by coasting the northern shore in opposite directions towards the two previously discovered points, His late Majesty was also pleased to command that this expedition should be simultaneously undertaken.

From the nature of these services it was nearly impossible that either of these expeditions could arrive at the open sea in Beering's Strait, without having nearly, if not wholly, exhausted their resources ; and Captain Franklin's party being, in addition, destitute of a conveyance to a place whence it could return to Europe. To obviate these anticipated difficulties, his Majesty's government determined upon sending a ship to Beering's Strait to await the arrival of the two expeditions.

As this vessel would traverse, in her route, a portion of the globe hitherto little explored, and as a considerable period must necessarily elapse before her presence would be required in the north, it was intended to employ her in surveying and exploring such parts of the Pacific as were within her reach, and were of the most consequence to navigation.

The vessel selected for this service was his Majesty's ship Blossom, of twenty-six guns, but on this occasion mounting only sixteen ; and on the 12th of January, 1825, I had the honour of being appointed to the command of her. The following officers, most of them men distinguished for their abilities, were placed under my orders, viz.—

Lieutenant,	George Peard.	Naturalist,	George T. Lay.
	Edw. Belcher, Super-	Assistant Surgeon,	Thomas Neilson.
Ditto,	{ numerary, and As-	Clerks,	{ John Evans,
	stant Surveyor.		Chas. H. Osmer.