

such a service can be undertaken with any chance of success, scarcely a third of the required sum was subscribed. Nevertheless, as I was anxious to lose no time, and confided in the further support of my countrymen, I set sail last March; but contrary winds obliged me to return, and postpone my journey until the approaching season.

I have taken advantage of this interval to draw up the following Narrative of the late expedition; which I conceive is not superseded by the work of Captain Back. The present work enables me, moreover, to state the reasons which have weighed with myself, and may induce others to encourage a new expedition on a more moderate and economical scale, —one equipped for greater despatch and execution than any of the former. Attention is earnestly requested to this subject, which will be found particularly discussed in the concluding chapter.

The propriety of publishing this Narrative having been questioned by some persons, I have thought it right to insert the following paragraph, which formed a part of my instructions