

to ourselves as well as to the kind natives: for they seemed to be friends come to rejoice with us on the happy termination of our voyage."

It had naturally occurred to Government, that if the expeditions under Captains Parry and Franklin should be successful, their stores would be exhausted by the time they reached Behring's Strait. It was certain also that Franklin would be destitute of any means of conveyance to Europe; and to supply these wants Government resolved that a vessel should be sent out to await their arrival in Behring's Strait. For this purpose, accordingly, Captain F. W. Beechey sailed in the *Blossom* from Spithead on the 19th of May, 1824. The vessel was a twenty-six gun ship, but on this occasion mounted only sixteen. She was partially strengthened, and adapted to this peculiar service by increasing her stowage. A boat was also supplied to be used as a tender, built as large as the space on her decks would allow, schooner-rigged, decked, and fitted up in the most complete manner. Cloths, beads, cutlery, and various other articles of traffic, were put on board, and a variety of antiscorbutics were added to the usual allowance of provision. Aware that he must traverse a large portion of the globe hitherto little explored, and that a considerable period would elapse before his presence would be required on the coast of America, Captain Beechey was instructed to survey the parts of the Pacific within his reach, of which it was important to navigators that a more correct delineation should be laid down. These observations were not, however, to retard his arrival at the appointed rendezvous later than the 10th of July, 1826; and he was directed to remain at Behring's Strait to the end of October, or to as late a period as the season would admit, without incurring the risk of spending the winter there. During this interval he was to navigate from Kotzebue's Sound northward, and afterward to continue in an easterly course along the main shore as far as the ice would allow.

On the 2d of June, having left the Sandwich Isles, he shaped his course for Kamtschatka, and on the 27th was becalmed within six miles of Petropaulski. The best guides to this harbour are a range of high mountains, on one of which, upwards of 11,000 feet in height, a volcano is in constant action. It was a serene and beautiful evening when they approached this remote quarter of the world, and all were struck with the magnificence of the mountains capped with perennial snow, and rising in solemn grandeur one above the other. At intervals the volcano emitted dark columns of smoke; and from a sprinkling of black spots upon the snow to the leeward it was conjectured there had been a recent eruption. From Petropaulski Captain Beechey sailed on the 1st of July for Kotzebue's Sound. "We approached," says he, "the strait which separates the two great continents of Asia and America, on one of those beautiful still nights well known to all who have visited the arctic regions, when the sky is without a cloud, and when the midnight sun, scarcely his own diameter below the horizon, tinges with a bright hue all the northern circle. Our ship, propelled by an increasing breeze, glided rapidly along a smooth sea, startling from her path flocks of aquatic birds, whose flight in the deep silence of the scene could be traced by the ear to a great distance." Having closed in with the American shore some miles to the northward of Cape Prince of Wales, they were visited by a little Esquimaux squadron belonging to a village situated on a low sandy island. The natives readily sold every thing they possessed, and were cheerful and good humoured, though exceedingly noisy and energetic. Their bows were more slender than those of the islanders to the southward, but made on the same principle, with drift pine, assisted with thongs of hide or pieces of whalebone placed at the back, and neatly bound with small cord. The points of their arrows were of bone, flint or iron, and their spears headed with the same materials. Their dress was similar to that of the other tribes on the coast. It consisted of a shirt which reached half way down the thigh, with long sleeves and a hood of reindeer skin, and edged with gray or white fox fur. Besides this they had a jacket of eider drake skins sewed together, which, when engaged in war they wore below their other dress, reckoning it a tolerably efficient protection against an arrow or a spear thrust. In wet weather they threw over the fur dress a shirt made of the entrails of the whale, which, being well saturated with oil and grease, was water-

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