

## P R E F A C E.

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ON the 4th of May, 1850, an expedition, under the command of Captain Austin, C.B., sailed from the Thames in search of Sir John Franklin and his missing companions. The ships composing this expedition were the 'Resolute,' commanded by Captain Austin, and the 'Assistance,' by Captain Ommanney, together with two steamers, the 'Pioneer' and 'Intrepid,' under the commands of Lieutenants Osburn and Cator. On the 24th of September, the little squadron was locked in the ice between the islands of Cornwallis and Griffiths in which position it remained till the 11th of August, 1851; and on the 7th of October, the ships arrived off Woolwich, after an absence from England of about eighteen months, having passed more than two thirds of that time in the Arctic Ocean. The