

INTRODUCTION.

THE discoveries made by the Expedition to the North-west in the years 1819-20, being such as to afford a strong presumption in favour of the existence of a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific in that direction, while they served also to point out the most probable means of its accomplishment, His Majesty, on the representation of Lord Viscount Melville, commanded another attempt to be made to effect that object; and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty were pleased once more to honour me with the command of an Expedition, to be equipped at Deptford for that purpose. The Hecla having been found well adapted to this service, a second ship of precisely the same class was now selected, and I received my commission for His Majesty's ship the Fury, of three hundred and seventy-seven tons burthen, on the 30th of December 1820. The Hecla was re-commissioned by Captain George Francis Lyon, on the 4th of January following.

The officers who accompanied the former Expeditions having volunteered their services, their Lordships were pleased to re-appoint such as the present establishment would admit. The same preference was likewise given to such of the former crews as were considered fit for this service; and a great number of other seamen also coming forward to enter, the ships were speedily well manned. The Reverend George Fisher, who had accompanied the Expedition to Spitzbergen in 1818, was now, at the recommendation of the President and Council of the Royal Society, appointed Astronomer; and it being in every respect desirable that a Chaplain should form a part of our establishment,