

Commanding could be packed ; and, in spite of an unpaid tailor's bill, revelled in sweet and pleasant dreams.

The "Intrepid" and "Pioneer" rejoined the ships at Long-Hope ; and my gallant comrade and I made a neck-and-neck race of it, showing that in steaming, at any rate, there would be little to choose between us ; and, on May 15th, the Arctic squadron weighed, and, passing out of the Pentland Firth, the "Dasher" and "Lightning" cheered us, took our letters, — and the Searching Expedition was alone steering for Greenland. Night threw her mantle around us ; the lonely light of Cape Wrath alone indicating where lay our homes. I like losing sight of Old England by night. It is pleasant to go to rest with a sweet recollection of some quiet scene you have just dwelt upon with delight, the spirit yearning for the excitement and novelty ahead. You rise in the morning, old Ocean is around you : there is, to the seaman, a lullaby, say what they may, in his hoarse song ; and they of the middle watch tell how the friendly light of some distant cape glimmered and danced in the east, until lost in some passing squall.

Now for the North-West ! we exclaimed, — its much talked of dangers, — its chapter of horrors ! As gallant Frobisher says, "it is *still* the only thing left undone, whereby a notable mind might be made famous and remarkable." As it was in Frobisher's day, so it is