

THE
TENTS OF THE TUSKI.

CHAPTER I.

Long absence of the "Erebus" and "Terror."—Consideration of Contingencies, and Plans for Relief.—H.M.S. "Plover," Commander Moore.—Sails for Behring's Straits.—Arrive at Sandwich Islands.—Description of Honolulu.—Its Inhabitants.—Beautiful Night Scene.—Departure.—Passage to Behring's Straits.—Aleutian Islands.—Russian Discoveries.—St. Lawrence Island.—Adverse Winds and Currents.—Tchutskoi Noss.—The Tchutski.

THE attention of the Admiralty having been drawn to the protracted absence of the two Arctic Discovery Ships, "Erebus" and "Terror," which sailed from England, under the command of Sir John Franklin, in the spring of 1845, and of which no tidings had been received, it was determined in the autumn of 1847, after mature consideration of the opinions of those most experienced in Arctic affairs, to despatch three expeditions as early as possible in 1848 to different quarters of the frozen sea, for the purpose of seeking, and, if necessary, relieving the missing voyagers.