INTRODUCTION.

lil

re

W

th

di

th

b

tł

th

b

fi

te

h

W

a

Captains Ross and Parry, in the Arctic Seas; and he had excited their wonder by his account of the Esquimaux, with whom these expeditions had brought Europeans acquainted-their houses built of ice, the hardships these remote people endure in winter, their ignorance of all those inventions of art and science which have so much promoted the comforts of life; and he thus led them to reflect, with thankfulness, upon the happier circumstances in which their lot had been cast by Providence. They acquired also, in this way, a knowledge of the geography of these hitherto unexplored parts of the earth; whilst not the least advantage which accrued to them was, the important lesson which the narrative enforced, that zeal, intrepidity, and discretion, can, with the Divine aid, surmount the most ing dangers; whilst a firm reliance upon al the care and protection of an ever-watchful Providence, and an unrepining fortitude under the trials which it sends, not only support the mind under suffering, but are often rewarded by the opening of a way of escape, when, to all human appearance, it was hopeless.

A year had now nearly elapsed since the sons of Mr. Jones had, in this way, been made acquainted with the enterprise and energy of British seamen in the Arctic Seas. Mr. Mackey had been twice in Waterford harbour during that interval; but his stay was too short, and his time too much occupied, to permit his compliance with their request, that, in