

quarto volumes, with two or three smaller ones, containing together from three to four thousand pages, exclusive of four or five other volumes, consisting entirely of subjects in natural history, which on the present occasion do not fall within my province.

I cannot but feel it a most gratifying reflection that in so great a number of persons, who have been employed and passed several winters in one of the most cold, dark, and desolate regions of the globe, so few lives, in some of the ships none, have been lost. It is equally gratifying to have the opportunity of recording, which I have not omitted to do, that most of those who survived the trial have received advancement in their professional career, or some distinction of honour, in reward of their services; and that there are few of those, in the inferior ranks, who have not improved their condition in life, in consequence of their good conduct on very trying occasions.

I have used the liberty of making a few brief occasional remarks on some of the voyages, which I am sure the gallant conductors of them will take in good part, knowing, as they well do, the great interest I have felt in their success, from their commencement down to the existing expedition