

fleets of whalers annually left our ports for Davis Straits and the Greenland seas, and these highly enterprising voyages proved remunerative both to the hardy seamen and to the merchants who invested their capital in them. In Davis Straits the field of their operations was chiefly the edge of the pack ice from latitude  $62^{\circ}$  to  $69^{\circ}$ , and South-east Bay: the more daring of them, however, went up as far as North-east Bay and the Blackhook. As their knowledge of Davis Straits extended, and as the whales became less numerous in the above mentioned localities, they pushed north-ward by degrees, until, in the year 1817, one of them, the "Larkins," rediscovered Baffin's Bay and a "boundless" space of open water off the entrance of Sir James Lancaster's Sound. On the report of this discovery being received by the Government, it was ably sustained by the late Sir John Barrow, the secretary of the Admiralty, who had been long endeavouring to impress upon the country a renewal of Arctic research. His endeavours were successful; for, in the following year, two ships were sent out to Davis Straits, under the command of Commander, now Rear Admiral, Sir John Ross, C. B., &c. &c., and Lieutenant, now Sir, E. W. Parry, and two ships