

P R E F A C E.

THE expedition of which the following is the Narrative, consisting of Captain Back and the Author, with an adequate number of men, was fitted out in the early part of 1833, by public subscription, aided by a grant from Government, to effect two objects: first, to render assistance to Captain (now Sir John) Ross and his party, who had sailed in 1829 to the Polar Regions, and of whose fate at that time no information had been obtained; and afterwards, having either succeeded in the accomplishment of this humane undertaking, or having ascertained beyond question that its success was impossible, to extend our knowledge of the Northern Coast of North America.

With regard to the first object of the expedition we were anticipated by the return of