

## INTRODUCTION.

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MR. JONES, a merchant residing in the city of Waterford, in the south of Ireland, was not more respected by his neighbours for his character in trade, than for the paternal solicitude with which he watched over the morals and education of his two sons, William and Patrick, and endeavoured to fit them for being useful members of society. During the day, whilst he was engaged in his counting-house, they attended a school in the town, which was kept by a worthy and highly competent master; but in the evening Mr. Jones generally had some rational plan of occupation, which combined instruction with amusement, and made home what a judicious parent will always strive to make it—a scene of cheerfulness and improvement. In the summer of the preceding year, he had been greatly assisted by the captain of a trading vessel, who had come to Waterford with goods consigned to his house, Mr. Mackey (that was the name of the person) having stopped at his house all the time that his ship was unlading and taking in a fresh cargo. He had related to the family circle the voyages and discoveries of *Arctic Travels*.

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