

derfully adapted to sustain existence in the extremity of cold, we are presented with a race of men singular alike from the circumstances to which they have conformed themselves, the manners and customs thence resulting, and the contrivances whereby they brave the utmost rigours of the clime. When, moreover, it is considered that in the field of Northern Discovery England laid the foundation of her maritime pre-eminence, and that the men who have earned in it the greatest glory were chiefly British, it will be admitted that the history of their adventures must have a peculiar charm for the English reader.

The Narrative of these Voyages, down to the close of the ninth chapter, was carefully drawn from the most authentic sources by Mr. Murray, whose labours in a similar department of literature have been received by the public with no common approbation. They include the adventures and exploits of many of those navigators of whom their country has the greatest reason to be proud. Such in early times were Willoughby, Chancelor, Frobisher, Davis, Hudson; more recently Parry, Scoresby, Ross, the uncle and nephew, with others of little inferior note. The wild and strange scenes through which their career led, the peculiar perils with which it was beset, the hairbreadth escapes and sometimes tragical events that ensued, give to their narratives an interest similar to that of romance.

The tenth and eleventh chapters have been prepared for the present edition by an experienced writer. They trace the history of north-western exploration through most eventful recent periods, down to the winter of 1850. The former narrates the marvellous ice-