

PREFACE.

THE President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society suggested that a selection of papers on various branches of science relating to the Arctic Regions, which are rendered inaccessible through being bound up in 'Transactions' and 'Proceedings' with other irrelevant matter, should be reprinted for the use of the Arctic Expedition. This suggestion, so far as regards subjects other than geography and ethnology, was adopted by the Admiralty on the recommendation of the Council of the Royal Society, and a collection of papers and extracts from books on zoology, geology and physics, will be reprinted at the public expense for the use of the expedition.

The present volume contains a series of papers on Arctic geographical and ethnological subjects, which it was thought might be useful to the officers of the expedition; and which has been prepared by a Committee appointed by the Council, and at the expense of the Royal Geographical Society.

It is a contribution presented to the Arctic Expedition by the Society, in the hope that some use and instruction may be derived from it, and with the warmest and most heartfelt wishes for the success and safe return of the explorers, on the part of the Council and Fellows.

The Volume is divided into two sections—on Geography and Ethnology.

The first series of papers in the Geographical Section is by Dr. Robert Brown, F.R.G.S., who has twice visited Greenland, and who is one of the highest living authorities on all scientific subjects connected with that region. Dr. Brown, after briefly