

of all the scientific instruments and medicine chest." The same versatile gentleman acted as "doctor" to the expedition, the medical man who had been engaged for the service having at the last moment "declined the honour." All preparations having been completed, the "Prince Albert" put to sea from Aberdeen on the 5th June 1850.

In less than four months—on the night of the 1st October—the vessel was again in Aberdeen harbour, and Mr Parker Snow had now the congenial task before him of writing the story of the adventures and achievements of "the expedition." This he has done in a volume entitled the "Voyage of the 'Prince Albert' in search of Sir John Franklin." The cruise lasted four months, during which time no discovery was made; the volume runs to four hundred pages, in which no fact of importance is recorded. It is enough to state that the "Prince Albert" reached Lancaster Sound, sailed for some time in company with the other discovery ships, then entering Regent Inlet, proceeded as far south as Fury Beach, where she was stopped by ice. From this point the homeward voyage began. Mr Snow tells once more the story of the discovery of Franklin's first winter quarters, an episode in Arctic exploration which has already been sufficiently dwelt upon. This writer speaks of the craft in which he sailed as the "*bonnie wee pet*," and emphasises the expression by putting it in italics. No more! No more!

Sir John Ross in the "Felix."—While Government were fitting out the expeditions under Penny and Austin, Sir John Ross, who had then reached the great age of seventy-three, volunteered his services to proceed again to the north and search for his old comrade, Franklin. Government declined the offer, but the veteran navigator, persisting in his endeavours, obtained the countenance of the Hudson's Bay Company, from which and from the public, he obtained by subscription sufficient funds to purchase and equip the small schooner "Felix," in which he set sail from the west of Scotland on the 23d May 1850. On the 27th August he arrived at Beechey Island, where he inspected the traces of Franklin's winter quarters. He added nothing, however, to the discovery of Penny, with whom he spent the winter in Assistance Harbour. During the winter, his first officer, Commander Philips, made a futile and fruitless effort to cross Cornwallis Island. On the 12th August 1851, the "Felix" with the other vessels was released from the ice, and Ross commenced his homeward voyage, and arrived off the west coast of Scotland, 25th September 1851. "This expedition," says Seemann, "was attended with no results, either as to the missing vessels or to geographical discovery."