

EXPLANATION AND ANSWER

TO

MR. BRAITHWAITE'S SUPPLEMENT.

I CONFESS it is with reluctance I recur to the subject of the Steam Machinery supplied to me by Messrs. Braithwaite and Ericsson; not that I find any difficulty in refuting every assertion made by the former, in his supercilious attempt to make it appear that the failure of the machinery which he supplied to me was not to be attributed to him; but because it is painful to me to be forced to expose the disreputable practices resorted to by those in trade, who had acquired a fair character, and had thereby induced unsuspecting individuals to put confidence in their integrity.

The feelings of contempt which Mr. Braithwaite's "Prefatory Notice" have naturally excited are not unmixed with pity, because it is lamentable to perceive a tradesman, even of the second class, descending to such unbecoming language as Mr. Braithwaite has made use of, while it is to me a source of regret that he should have taken offence at what I was bound to relate in justice to myself; but more especially to prove that steam, which I still firmly believe ought to be employed in the Arctic regions, had not, on the late occasion, a fair trial; and it will be seen that the facts which I then thought unnecessary to publish, or which I then suppressed out of kindness to the manufacturer, will not ameliorate his case; and if Mr. Braithwaite is offended at my want of courtesy, I can only assure him that he would have been still more so, had I made that communication which he seems to think he had a right to expect.