

ever been engaged in similar service, should be ready to sail early in May. In the crew of each ship there were to be a few persons in the new capacity of ice-quarter-masters, who had gained some experience in Davis Straits while prosecuting the whale fishery as seamen. There were, however, to be no ice-masters, according to the custom followed in the former expeditions.

The Admiralty did not hesitate to consult such persons as might be able to afford advice or assistance, although they did not bear commissions under the seal of that honourable board. The Rev. Dr. Scoresby, at one time the commander of a whaler in the Greenland seas, and the author of standard and graphic descriptions of the regions visited by him during his career as a whaler, became early associated with the plans proposed for the discovery and the rescue of the missing ships; and, although his experience was chiefly applicable to the locality where it had been acquired, their lordships were not unfrequently indebted to him for suggestions of considerable practical utility, with reference to Davis Straits, and the most probable means by which they should succeed in carrying out their views in reply to the loud demands of humanity. Indeed, the time had gone by in which seeking for the lost was to