

# FRANKLIN'S FOOTSTEPS.

## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

IN the interminable pine-forests and rocky fiords of the North there was much calculated to attract the restless imagination, and excite the wild spirit of adventure, so characteristic of those northern warriors who in a short time overran the whole of western Europe, infusing hardihood and vigour into the effeminate races of the South. The strange admixture of the sublime and terrible in the stern unbending landscape of those ice-bound regions had peculiar charms for men to whom danger was a pastime, and whose religion was one of fear rather than of love. To its influence also we may trace most of that beautiful poetry which remains in the Sagas of the Skalds, and which even to this day is justly esteemed for the richness of its imagery and the lofty grandeur of its expression.

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