

P R E F A C E.

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I FEAR with the many of my cloth, my crime in writing a book will be an unpardonable one ; the more so, that I cannot conscientiously declare, that it has been at the urgent desire of my friends, &c., that I have thus made my début.

My motive is twofold : to tell of the doings of a screw steam-vessel, the first ever tried in the Polar regions, and by a light, readable description of incidents in the late search for Sir John Franklin, to interest the general reader and the community at large upon that subject. Without fear, favour, or affection, I have told facts as they have occurred ; and I trust have, in doing so, injured no man. A journal must