

ARCTIC MISCELLANIES,

A SOUVENIR OF THE LATE POLAR SEARCH.

BY THE OFFICERS AND SEAMEN OF THE EXPEDITION.

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SECOND EDITION, WITH A NEW PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION BY P. O'BRIEN, ESQ.

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FROM THE "TIMES."—This volume is not the least interesting or instructive among the records of the late expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, commanded by Captain Austin. The most valuable portions of the book are those which relate to the scientific and practical observations made in the course of the expedition, and the descriptions of scenery and incidents of arctic travel. Many of the latter possess considerable literary merit, and all are impressed with the vividness of fresh observation. From the variety of the materials, and the novelty of the scenes and incidents to which they refer, no less than the interest which attaches to all that relates to the probable safety of Sir John Franklin and his companions, the Arctic Miscellanies forms a very readable book, and one that redounds to the honour of the national character.

FROM THE "GLOBE."—Captain Austin's little squadron, which sailed in May, 1850, in search of Sir John Franklin, consisted of the *Resolute*, commanded by Captain Austin; the *Assistance*, commanded by Captain Ommaney; and two steamers under the command of Lieutenants Osburn and Cator. To assist in whiling away the dreary time in the arctic regions, the officers and sailors of the expedition contributed to a journal which was circulated amongst them in manuscript, and once a month the weather-beaten tars enjoyed the luxury of their own newspaper. That journal has now been brought before the general public under the title of "Arctic Miscellanies," in a shape more worthy of its intrinsic merits, beautifully printed, and carefully illustrated. All the varied incidents, pleasant and painful, of life in the frozen zone, are vividly and good-humouredly chronicled in the "Arctic Miscellanies," which contains besides some capital seamen's stories superstitious "yarns" and drolleries. As a record of the pastimes, adventures, fancies, and feelings of our true-hearted gallant sailors, while undergoing the most appalling hardships in the frozen seas, the volume is invaluable; and it is unusually interesting as demonstrating the high intellectual capacities, the mental vigour, and the refined tastes of our rough-looking blue-jackets.

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