

THE  
LAST OF THE ARCTIC VOYAGES,

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

CAPTAIN SIR EDWARD BELCHER, C.B.

---

CHAPTER I.

Return of Osborn.—Arrival of Despatches.—Fate of Bellot.—Statement of Survivors.—No account of Western Division.—The 'Breadalbane' nipped.—Departure of the 'Phoenix.'—Preparations for housing.—Arrival of Shellabeer.—Departure of Richards.—Ventilation.—Esquimaux Huts.—Winter Fittings.—Air-pumps.—Hospital Ship.—Thermometers.—Rupture of Ice.—Loose Ice.

*September 15.*—FINE; temperature  $17^{\circ}$ , with sharp westerly wind; the outer ice in motion down channel, but our icemen report large lanes of water can be traced outside of them. At nine P.M. the 'Pioneer' was secured, but too near.

On the 17th, 18th, and 19th, officers were sent in advance, to relieve the return-sledge, under Lieutenant Osborn. Eventually Lieutenant Cheyne, with a sledge-crew of seven men and seven days' provision, was directed to advance two days, and there deposit two days', to remain until the fourth day, and then retreat for further instructions to Cape Osborn. Had he not then appeared, I intended to send Commander Richards