

with good libraries, to which the officers added their own collection of books. Reading-rooms were established on the lower deck of each ship, as were also schools on the Lancasterian system. Here the ships' companies assembled; and whilst some read, others formed themselves into classes, under the direction of teachers. The officers took an active part in these exercises, sometimes as teachers, sometimes as learners. Navigation, steam, seamanship, arithmetic, and even modern languages and music, were the chief objects of study. In most of these branches of education the seamen showed themselves apt and docile learners.

A theatre was also tastefully fitted up on board the 'Assistance,' and a corps of actors formed, under the management of Captain Ommanney. And on board the 'Resolute' and 'Intrepid' saloons were opened for masquerade balls, several of which took place with great success during the long Arctic night. A printing-press was given to the expedition by the Admiralty for printing balloon-papers. There were no printers in the squadron, but some of the officers soon learned the art; and beside balloon-papers, play-bills, and announcements of fancy dress balls, were regularly sent to press. Several of the men, too, became adepts in the art of printing, and set up in type, songs and other trifles, chiefly of their own