

cessful in their seal fishing, a deputation was sent to express their thanks for the kindness shown to the old people; and they continued to supply the party with all the seal's fat required, refusing to accept any pay. They always started to retire from Dr. Rae's presence when they saw his breakfast or dinner brought, and even from the men's tent when they saw the kettle taken off, thus showing much delicacy. The party lived in very great amity with them. They had some curious notions. Their belief in a Supreme Being was perfect. They believed in a good and a bad spirit, but thought the good spirit so beneficent that he would not hurt them as they were his own children. If they did not behave well they would be given up to the power of the evil spirit; hence they propitiated the evil spirit that he might not hurt them. They did not worship him but they made him offerings to prevent him from injuring them. They believed that the Aurora was the spirit of the dead visiting each other in Heaven. The falling stars were of the same nature. Respecting the sun and moon they said that a man took fire to Heaven and lit the sun; that he afterwards took his sister up, but that, as he was cruel to her, she ran away and became the moon; and that he has ever since been chasing her, but has never caught her. As soon as the ice broke up in the spring, the party, after laying in a stock of fish and venison and building an oven (the latter having been done by the very good mason, the one who had built their store house, John Corrigan, one of the best men the lecturers ever had with him), they made some very good bread and started for home: got back in due time to York Factory, and went home thence by ship. The expense of the expedition amounted to but £1,400, as against £17,000 or £18,000 by a Government ship. The lecturer concluded his account of this expedition by referring to the Esquimaux method of treating frost-bites on the face, namely, placing the warm hand upon the skin, and thus fetching back the circulation, instead of rubbing with snow and thereby taking off the skin. In 1847, Dr. Rae, a few weeks after his return, joined Sir John Richardson in another expedition to look for Sir John Franklin. They went over the continent, up the McKenzie and Copper Mine rivers, left their boats which had been cut through by ice, and walked a long journey to Bear Lake, where they wintered. They found no trace of Sir John Franklin. In 1849 they went down the river again, but the ice blocked their passage. In 1850 the lecturer came back again, having been employed by the Government to look again for Franklin, though not knowing exactly where to go. Starting with three men in the spring from Red River before navigation opened, he made the fastest journey ever made in the Arctic Circle. He himself drafted and superintended the construction of small boats at Bear Lake. Travelling on sledges 1,100 miles, with 80 or 90 pounds weight to each man, at the rate of 25 miles per day, they then took their boats down the Copper Mine River. Hector McKenzie and a number of men from Winnipeg were of the party. They went all round the coast, and named the Victoria Strait. Curiously, at that time one of Franklin's ships was lying within forty miles of where they passed, though they knew nothing of it,