

utmost rigours of the clime. When, moreover, it is considered that in the field of Northern Discovery England laid the foundation of her maritime pre-eminence, and that the men who have earned in it the greatest glory were chiefly British, it will be admitted that the history of their adventures must have a peculiar charm for the English reader.

The Narrative of these Voyages has been carefully drawn from the most authentic sources by Mr Murray, whose labours in a similar department of literature have been already received by the public with no common approbation. They include the adventures and exploits of many of those navigators of whom their country has the greatest reason to be proud. Such in early times were Willoughby, Chancellor, Frobisher, Davis, Hudson; more recently Parry, Scoresby, Ross, the uncle and nephew, with others of little inferior note. The wild and strange scenes through which their career led, the peculiar perils with which it was beset, the hairbreadth escapes and sometimes tragical events that ensued, give to their narratives an interest similar to that of romance. They may serve, too, as introductory to a new one, which may ere long be expected from Sir John Franklin. That officer, so distinguished by his discoveries along the American coast, is preparing this spring (May 1845) to set sail on a fresh attempt to accomplish the long-sought-for north-west passage. Steering a somewhat northerly course, between Boothia and the Georgian Islands, he hopes to avoid the obstacles by which the two last expeditions of Parry and Ross were arrested.