

P R E F A C E.

THE Arctic Expedition of 1875-6 excited a greater amount of interest among the British public than any previous enterprise of a similar nature ; and on its safe return the newspapers, without exception, gave accounts of its proceedings. These were necessarily fragmentary and incomplete. It is believed that a full and connected narrative of its details, now that the last parliamentary papers on the subject have been issued, will be acceptable, particularly when it is published at a price within the reach of all.

The writer has had access to the official reports, journals, charts, and drawings of all the officers of the Expedition ; and has attempted to reproduce the substance of the valuable information contained in these volumes, and to give the details of the sufferings and heroic achievements of the gallant companies of the *Alert* and *Discovery*. He hopes his efforts will be favourably received. At all events an account of the privations, so nobly endured by our countrymen in the cause of science cannot be unwelcome ; and the solid results accomplished are so honourable to the British nation, that a permanent record, within the reach of all, is absolutely necessary. Indeed it is only after a careful perusal of the narrative of the Expedition that the heroic efforts of the brave men who took part in it can be truly appreciated.

19th May, 1877.

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