

BREAKING THE RECORD.

CHAPTER I.

A PROSPEROUS START.

"ADMIRALTY, May 25, 1875.

"SIR, Her Majesty's Government having determined that an expedition of Arctic exploration and discovery should be undertaken, My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been pleased to select you for the command of the said expedition, the scope and primary object of which should be to attain the highest northern latitude, and, if possible, to reach the North Pole, and from winter quarters to explore the adjacent coasts within the reach of travelling parties, the limits of ship navigation being confined within about the meridians of 20° and 90° west longitude."

So ran the first paragraph of the sailing orders issued by My Lords of the Admiralty to Captain