

started was too heavily laden, and was supplied with boilers of a new and vicious construction, which it was feared would be found inoperative in an emergency. As he had three years' provisions with him, the starvation which had so nearly proved fatal to Capt. Franklin and his little band, does not fall within the list of probabilities. If any of the crew had survived any disaster to the vessel, and fallen amongst some of the Polar tribes of Indians, it is to be supposed that means would have been found of communicating with the northernmost establishments of the Fur Company, with whom these Indians barter the skins they obtain in the chase. The fate of our gallant countrymen may remain as long unknown as that of La Perouse.

ANOTHER ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—It will be remembered that Captain Ross, after having been employed in attempting to make discoveries in these regions, in command of vessels belonging to Government, returned to them, more than three years ago, in a vessel of his own, and that he has not since been heard of. Mr. Ross, the Captain's brother, and some of his friends, after ineffectually urging government to send out an expedition at the public charge, resolved themselves to attempt one—"acting, on a plan of operations suggested by Dr. Richardson and other scientific and experienced men." The Hudson's Bay Company promised their co-operation, and sent out instructions in June last to their factors and agents, to prepare and send forward stores and provisions to the different stations through which the expedition might be expected to pass. An application was made to His Majesty for the assistance of an officer of the royal navy to accompany the expedition, and Captain Back, the intelligent companion of Sir John Franklin on two former enterprises of the same kind, has accepted the command.

£2000 were recommended by Lord Goderich to be afforded in aid of the expenses, on the understanding that £3000 more should be supplied by individuals favourable to the undertaking. Subscriptions to this end have been opened. The committee of management in one of its resolutions says,—

"That although the ostensible and primary object of this expedition is for the humane purpose aforesaid, yet it is the opinion of this meeting that so favourable an opportunity should not be lost in pursuing, as far as may be practicable and convenient, the desirable ends of science, to which so prolific a field of useful information is opened, and that the various scientific bodies and individuals of London, and elsewhere, be consulted and invited to contribute their assistance towards this undertaking."

It is intended, that Captain Back, should avail himself of every opportunity that may occur to enrich the scientific world, and it is hoped that before his return he will have explored those unknown regions between Point Turnagain, where Captain Franklin finished his journey, and the furthest point to the west reached by Captain Parry, and thus wind up the main point of these two expeditions, it being supposed, from reindeer and musk-oxen being found on Melville Island, that the land is either continuous or divided only by small straits.