

dition under the command of Sir James Clark Ross, from Barrow Straits, in the autumn of 1849, was as unexpected as it was unwelcome ; and this was more especially the case from the fact that the "North Star," with a crew of, I believe, sixty-five persons, including seamen and officers, had been sent out with orders for that expedition to continue the search, and with means to enable it to do so with safety : indeed with perfect safety in the estimation of persons at home, who were totally ignorant of the ill health that prevailed in it. This ship, however, did not meet the expedition she was sent out to communicate with, and as she did not return that season, according to her own instructions, the Admiralty felt extreme anxiety for her safety, in addition to their daily increasing fears for Sir John Franklin's expedition, which was now passing its fifth winter unheard of among the ice.

After giving the subject the most ample consideration, such was the hope that the missing ships had penetrated to the westward in their attempts to win the long-contested prize, that it was at once resolved to send out to Behring's Straits, under the command of Captains Collinson and M'Clure, the ships "Enterprise" and "Investigator," which had just returned from Barrow Straits. Accordingly,