

P R E F A C E.

WITH the many of my cloth, my crime of writing a book will be an unpardonable one, and I cannot even conscientiously declare that it has been at the urgent desire of my friends that I have thus made my *début*.

My motive, however, is twofold—to tell of the doings of a screw steam-vessel, the first ever tried in the polar regions ; and, by a light readable description of incidents in the late search for Sir John Franklin, to interest the community at large upon that subject. I have told facts as they have occurred ; and I trust have, in doing so, injured no man. A journal would necessarily be a dry narration of facts ; I have, therefore, thrown in here and there general observations and remarks founded upon such facts, rather than a dry repetition of them.

To the officers and men serving under my command, I can offer no higher compliment than in having thus placed their severe and zealous labours before the pub-

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