

appeared on the west side of Davis Straits, previous to the return of the whalers and of Sir James Clark Ross's Expedition, in the autumn of the preceding season, it was properly inferred that she had been caught among the ice on the opposite side, and detained there through the winter. And as a similar event had not befallen any of the whalers that had seen and been in company with that ship, the balance began to preponderate justly in favour of the skill and experience their commanders brought into daily use in navigating the ice-encumbered sea of Davis Straits and Baffin's Bay. Melville Bay, with its presiding *genii*, the Devil's Thumb and Cape York, all of a sudden assumed a most formidable character; and the opinion took deep root, that the whaler alone could convey the spell-bound ships across its tranquil waters.

There were competitors for the command of this new expedition; but the contest was at once decided in favour of Mr. Penny, the commander of the "Advice" of Dundee, whom I have already introduced. At the age of forty-one, having been engaged in the Arctic seas since entering his twelfth year, and in command of a whaling ship for sixteen years, vigorous and full of energy and zeal in the Franklin cause, no person seemed to be better adapted for the duty which he

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