

Miscellaneous.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—In the course of the past week additional information respecting the gallant Sir John Franklin and his crew have been received.

The first who brought any later news from the Arctic regions was Captain Sir J. C. Ross. His ships the *Enterprise* and the *Investigator* arrived off Scarborough on Saturday last, having been knocking about between the Orkneys and that place for several days.

Captain Sir James Ross arrived at the Admiralty on Monday, and had interviews with the board. The gallant officer appeared rather the worse for his perilous voyage, but was animated with his characteristic energy. It is his confident opinion that neither Sir John Franklin nor any of his brave companions are eastward of any navigable point in the Arctic regions, and if there be any chance of their existence it is in the supposition that he proceeded in a westerly direction, and in such case we can only expect to hear from the missing adventurers by the Mackenzie detachment, or by her Majesty's ship *Plover*, Commander Moore, by way of Russia.

Sir James traversed at least 230 miles on the ice, the bergs of which were frightful, much more so than any of the experienced Arctic voyagers had seen before. Sir James and his party penetrated as far as the wreck of the *Fury*, where he found the old tent standing, and every thing about it in a state of the best preservation. At this point Sir James deposited a large quantity of provisions, and also the screw-launch of the *Enterprise*. The march of Sir James across the boundless regions of ice is truly stated as a most unparalleled feat in exploration. We are sorry to find, however, that it was in no way successful.

The captain, officers, and ship's company have worked together most harmoniously—a spirit of emulation having animated every one in the great philanthropic task of endeavouring to carry help and succour to their long lost friends. In the whole course of his researches it is said Sir James Ross never met a single Esquimaux.

Sir James speaks most highly of all those who have been connected and associated with him. He is fully satisfied that all has been done that could be done by the Admiralty in the appropriation of the vessel, the selection of the crew, and the extensive equipment of each vessel, in stores, provisions, &c.

The intelligence which had reached New York on the 20th ult. by the barque *M-Lellan* from Davis' Straits is in a great degree confirmed by a communication from Kirkaldy, dated November 1, of was the following is a copy:—Captain Kerr, of the *Chieftain*, arrived from Davis' Straits, confirms, in the main features, the report made by Captain Parker, of the *Truelove*—viz., that on the 11th of July, being then in lat. 72-40, and lon. 75 W., off Cape Graham More, and fast to the land ice, they were visited by a party of the Esquimaux, (who came from the main land on sledges), and on being questioned regarding the discovery ships, stated that some of those persons present had, in the course of last winter, seen four vessels (not whalers), two of which had been lying near to the west entrance of Prince Regent's Inlet for four winters, and two for one winter, on the eastern side of that inlet, not far from the north entrance; that the vessels were completely icebound, but apparently in good order, with their masts standing, and yards struck; that the captains and crews were in good health, and had no want of provisions (salmon and reindeer). Captain Kerr expresses his belief in this statement. He has had an interview with Lady Franklin, who has hopes that this report will prove true, although it depends on the veracity of the Esquimaux.

ONE THOUSANDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH-DAY OF KING ALFRED.
Dinner at the Adelphi Hotel last night.

A public dinner, in commemoration of the one thousandth anniversary of the birthday of King Alfred, took place last evening, in the large room of the Adelphi Hotel, the worshipful the Mayor, John Bramley-More, Esq., in the chair. The chairman was supported on his right by Martin Tupper, Esq., D.C.L. and F.R.S.; Sir Arnold Knight, Wm. Rathbone, Esq., and J. A. Picton, Esq.; and on his left by the Rev. Dr. Giles, of Bampton; the Rev. Abraham Hume, L.L.D., &c., &c. The vice-chair was filled by—Lowndes, Esq., (of the firm of Lowndes, Bateson, Robinson, and Lowndes). There were nearly 100 gentlemen sat down to dinner, amongst whom, in addition to the gentlemen already named, we noticed—Peel, Esq., (the Under-Sheriff), Mr. Alderman Procter, Mr. Alderman John Holmes, &c., &c.

The cloth having been withdrawn, and the usual loyal toasts drunk,

The CHAIRMAN said he now rose under feelings of considerable embarrassment, for he rose to propose the toasts of the evening. It was the memory of Alfred the Great, son of Ethelbert. (Loud cheers.) He had to express his regret that the position he then occupied had not fallen into abler hands, and that the discharge of the duties of his office had not devolved upon a person more competent to go through them. After further alluding to his inability, he said that nothing would have given him greater pleasure than to have introduced the toast of the evening in becoming language, and to have done justice to that great man—the greatest man England ever knew (cheers); but however much he might be found wanting in this respect his deficiency would be met by the eloquence of Sir Arnold Knight, the gentleman who would acknowledge the toast. (Hear, hear.) As they were aware, Alfred was the first Mo-

narch that ever sat on the English throne who compiled a code of laws. His character was so diversified, and yet so perfect, that it would require a great man indeed to do justice to it. We might say, indeed, that he was not only a law-giver, but that he was also the first schoolmaster of the age, for he was the first man that ever established public schools. It was disputed whether he was or was not the founder of Oxford, but whether he was or was not its founder, certain it was that he increased its privileges and advantages as a seat of learning. It was certain, also, that he was a learned man, for they had it in history that he translated the book of Psalms, and many other works. They knew, further, that he was a poet. They knew, also, as he had already observed, that he was a great warrior by sea and land, and when he (the Mayor) proposed the army and navy, he ought not to have omitted to say, that so far back as the ninth century, his mind was occupied in endeavouring to find out the north west passage; a circumstance which would shew them his gigantic mind, when it was known that, even now, in the nineteenth century, this country was occupied in a similar investigation. He need not remind them of the fact, because all of them acquainted with British history, must know that Alfred was the founder of that great and grand palladium of our liberties, trial by jury, which had been the pride of the country, and which had been imitated by every other civilised nation in existence. (Loud cheers.) If Alfred had done nothing else he would have been the greatest man of his day, but when they looked at the extraordinary combination of talent embodied in that great man, it was a perfect marvel to him that he had so many endowments, when the opportunities were so rare in those days. (Loud cheers.) The law, however, was so carried out in his day, that robberies were unheard of, and they might leave their goods exposed in the evening without any fear of their being molested at all. These were facts, and matters of history—not statements conjured up by him (the Mayor) to tell them; and indeed those who knew him well knew also that he had not the talent or the ability to manufacture such statements—they were written, he repeated, in the book of history. This great man divided his time into three parts; and he (the Mayor) thought it would be as well if the people of our own times followed his good example in this respect. He devoted one-third of his time during the day to the worship of his God, one-third in the discharge of the public duties of his high office, and one-third in the intercourse of social life. They were met on the present occasion to occupy their time according to the last named division. He would not trespass upon their time longer, because he knew that they were impatient to hear the worthy knight acknowledge the toast. If justice could be done to it he would do it. (Hear, hear.) He (the Mayor) knew that it would be done in language at once eloquent and appropriate, and which would reach the hearts of them all. He could not, however, sit down without remarking that Alfred was not only a great lawgiver, but also a great law maker; and he laid this down as his leading principle, that every law he made was to be founded on the Bible; and he told his subjects that if they would follow the precepts of the Bible in their conduct, it would scarcely be necessary for him to make any laws at all. He (the Mayor) had to apologise for the imperfect manner in which he had addressed them on this subject, and he had also to apologise for the time he had taken up; but, as they were aware, he was not in the habit of making long speeches. He would now conclude, but before concluding he would just remind them that it was usual, when drinking to the memory of every great man of former days, to do so in solemn silence. "But" continued his worship, "on this occasion I shall take upon myself the responsibility of departing from this path—of breaking through this rule, because I think that this is not an occasion when we ought to drink the memory of Alfred the Great in solemn silence, for this is a day of jubilee, and not a day of solemn silence. To-day is a day of jubilee, the day of a thousand years." (Loud cheers.) The toast was then drunk with three times three, his Worship the Mayor acting himself as fogleman.

Sir Arnold Knight acknowledged the toast in a powerful and eloquent address.

THE LATE MR. ROTHSHILD.—By his own report, Nathan Meyer Rothschild came to Manchester because Frankfurt was too small for the operations of the brothers, although the immediate cause was some offence to a customer; and it is characteristic of the intrepidity of the man that, with scarcely any hesitation, and with an absolute ignorance of the English language, he came to the country in which he realized such great results. On Tuesday he told his father he would go to England, and on Thursday he started. With £20,000 he commenced his career, and in a short time his capital was trebled. At Manchester he soon saw there were three profits to be made, in the raw material, the dyeing, and the manufacturing. It need hardly be added that his great mind had stomach for them all, and that, having secured the three, he sold goods cheaper than any one else. This was the foundation of that colossal fortune which afterwards passed into a proverb; and, in 1800, finding Manchester too small for the mind which could grapple with three profits, Rothschild came to London. It was the period when such a man was sure to make progress, as, clear and comprehensive in his commercial views, he was also rapid and decisive in working out the ideas which presented themselves. Business was plentiful, the entire Continent formed our customers, and Rothschild reaped a rich reward. From bargain to bargain, from profit to profit, the Hebrew financier went on and prospered. Gifted with a fine perception, he never hesitated in action. Having