

removed from the head of our expedition, which had hitherto worked so well, and produced such valuable practical results, under his direction. Still we could not help recognising the importance of having one of his experience in command of the Arctic Expedition, which will have the best possible chance of coming to a successful issue under his guidance.

On the 10th December he left (accompanied by Lieut. Aldrich*) in the mail-steamer for England, taking all our hearty good wishes; "and may God bless him and his endeavours," we all fervently echo. Captain F. T. Thomson, who was on the station in command of the *Modeste*, is appointed to take Captain Nares' place, and all we have to hope is that the remainder of the cruise will go on as successfully as it has hitherto done.

Jan. 6th, 1875.—At length the seven weeks have passed; the mail is in, after some grumbling at it being a few days late; for now if the gun announcing its arrival does not fire within the forty-two days, everybody begins to complain—fewer days nearly than a century ago it required weeks.

* Who was succeeded by Lieut. A. Carpenter.