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IN THE LENA DELTA

A NARRATIVE OF THE

SEARCH FOR LIEUT.-COMMANDER DELONG
AND HIS COMPANIONS

FOLLOWED BY

AN ACCOUNT OF THE GREELY
RELIEF EXPEDITION

AND

A PROPOSED METHOD OF REACHING THE
NORTH POLE

BY

GEORGE W. MELVILLE

CHIEF ENGINEER U. S. N.

EDITED BY

MELVILLE PHILIPS

*WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS*LONDON
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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

IF it be true — and Emerson affirms as much — that great deeds deserve a fit and permanent record, then assuredly there can be no need of explanation, much less of apology, for the appearance of this work. “We need books of this tart cathartic virtue,” wrote our New England sage; and so the editor flatters himself for having contributed to the birth of this one.

The world knows the story of the lost *Jeannette*, the luckless cruise and tedious drift of many months, the amazing march and terrible tribulation, the heroic endeavor and sad ending, — the world is aware of all this, to be sure, because in all the world's history it has no parallel; and no matter the why or the wherefore, there is yet in this story a human sympathy that cannot be disguised, an abiding interest that overlooks the question of utility.

Perhaps there will be readers of this volume who, already acquainted with the prominent part played by our author in the many adventures attending the long ice-blockade of the *Jeannette*, may have expected a fuller account of that interesting period than will be found herein; and will consequently regard our brief narrative of it as insufficient and unsatisfactory. Certainly it does appear, considering the few pages devoted