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978-1-108-05014-2 - Voyage dans les Mers du Nord à bord de la corvette La Reine Hortense

Karol Edmund Choiecki

Frontmatter

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Voyage dans les Mers du Nord à bord de la corvette *La Reine Hortense*

In 1856, Prince Napoléon, the French Emperor's cousin, carried out a four-month expedition in the North Sea. He was accompanied by a scientific committee as well as a group of painters, photographers and writers. Among the participants was Polish novelist, playwright, poet and journalist Karol Edmund Choiecki (1822–99). In 1844, he had fled Russian persecution in Poland, having been in jeopardy due to his activism and patriotic writings. He found refuge in France and befriended such members of the intellectual elite as Gustave Flaubert and George Sand. In 1857, Choiecki published a beautifully illustrated account of the expedition, in which he shares his views on navigation and exploration as he goes via Scotland, Iceland, Norway's Jan Mayen Island, Greenland, the Faroe and Shetland Islands, and Scandinavia. Choiecki paints a lyrical picture of the journey, offering a welcome contrast and addition to the scientific accounts of his day.

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A BORD DE LA CORVETTE

LA REINE HORTENSE

PAR

M. CHARLES EDMOND

(CHOIECKI)

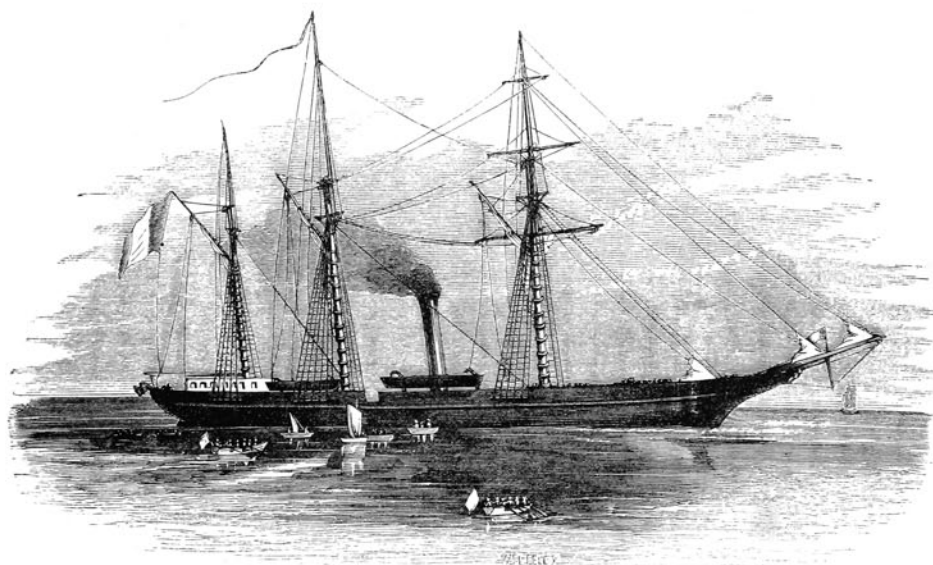
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COMMUNIQUÉES PAR MM. LES MEMBRES DE L'EXPÉDITION

CARTE DU VOYAGE.—CARTE GEOLOGIQUE DE L'ISLANDE

DESSINS DE M. KARL GIRARDET

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P R E F A C E

Dans les premiers mois de l'année 1856, le Prince Napoléon forma le projet d'une excursion dans les mers du Nord. Le plan du voyage, limité d'abord à l'Écosse et à l'Islande, prit bientôt de l'extension; il embrassa les régions polaires et les pays scandinaves.

Le programme était attrayant. L'auteur de ces récits obtint de la bienveillante affection du Prince de faire partie de l'expédition.

Il a rapporté de son voyage, dans ces mers encore nouvelles et dans ces pays peu connus, des impressions et des souvenirs dont il veut faire part au public, et

qu'il a la bonne fortune de compléter par des notices scientifiques dues à d'autres membres de l'expédition. Il ne lui reste plus à dire qu'il n'a eu ni le projet ni la mission de rédiger une relation officielle. Il parle non en historiographe, mais en simple touriste. Ses impressions sont personnelles, ses opinions indépendantes, ses jugements appartiennent à lui seul.

C. E.