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### **The Nautical Magazine**

The Nautical Magazine first appeared in 1832, published monthly at the price of one shilling. It aimed to advance 'the safety of seamen', with a focus on the merchant marine, and a readership of professional seafarers. The founding editor, A.B. Becher (1796–1876), served for many years under the distinguished hydrographer Sir Francis Beaufort, and the magazine reflected Beaufort's interests by reporting on new charts, research on weather and the oceans, astronomy and navigation, and statistics on wrecks and the Lifeboat Institution. The content regularly included serialised accounts of voyages, descriptions of distant countries, notes on new shipping regulations, and discussion of the latest technologies. There were also reports on current affairs such as (during the Victorian period) the searches for Sir John Franklin's lost Arctic expedition, the Crimean War and the Suez Canal project. Astute editorial decisions ensured that the content mirrored the evolving concerns of readers, enabling 'the Nautical' to remain popular for nearly two centuries. It is a fascinating source of data, news and opinions for maritime, economic and social historians, genealogists, and shipping enthusiasts.

### **The Nautical Magazine for 1871**

The *Nautical Magazine* first appeared in 1832, and was published monthly well into the twenty-first century. It covers a wide range of subjects, including navigation, meteorology, technology and safety. An important resource for maritime historians, it also includes reports on military and scientific expeditions and on current affairs. The 1871 volume, beginning a 'new series' under a new editor, opens by announcing certain changes to the magazine 'to bring it more into harmony with the spirit of this advancing age ... enlarging its usefulness' so as to be 'a means of adding to the honour and prosperity of England, and to the welfare of humanity at large'. Hydrography and navigation would continue to be prominent, but leisure reading would also feature. Other new departures include substantial articles analysing topics relating to a planned Shipping Bill, reports of the meetings of learned societies, and regular articles on competitive yachting and rowing.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05649-6 - The Nautical Magazine for 1871

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