

ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 20 February 1852 ;—for,

“PAPERS in connection with the late ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS, or with any
which may be in preparation.—(In continuation of the Papers presented
to The House on the 7th March 1851, and on the 3d February 1852.)”

(*Sir Robert Harry Inglis.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 27 February 1852.

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— No. 1. —

CORRESPONDENCE between the Admiralty and Mr. *Penny*, relative to the
Employment of Mr. *Penny* in the renewed Searching Expedition.

Sir,

200, Piccadilly, 11 February 1852.

I BEG you to do me the favour of laying the enclosed letter before the Lords
of the Admiralty.

I have brought it up to London, where I shall be detained a short time on
business, after which I return to Aberdeen.

To the Secretary to the Admiralty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Penny.*

My Lords,

Polmuir, Aberdeen, 30 January 1852.

I HAVE been too much hurt to reply to the letter I received from the Secretary
of the Admiralty in reply to my application to your Lordships, which was to be
allowed to pursue the search for Sir John Franklin in the channel I discovered last
year, and which everybody now agrees is the way he has gone. It never entered
my mind for one moment that your Lordships would have cast me off in the con-
temptuous manner you have done. Last autumn, when I returned, and asked
for a steamer to go back directly, it was judged too late to do so; but I was
thanked for what their Lordships were pleased to call my generous offer, and
that they were much gratified by my zeal, and I felt sure I should be sent again
in the spring, and that it was only put off for a season. My second in command,

as well as myself, had rejected every offer of any other kind, and my crews have been hanging on, spending their little savings in the expectation of going out again with me. Your Lordships must know that I had a claim to be employed when the next expedition was sent out. The country knows that it is to the whaling captain they owe their present hopes of the safety of Sir John Franklin, for if it had not been for him their Lordships would be as ignorant of the way he has gone as they were when I came back to say what I had done.

It is, I must say, an unfeeling injustice to give only to the navy the reward of following up my discoveries, and all the harder, because one of themselves, Captain Austin, declined following up the course I opened for him, which he was not willing to believe when I first communicated it, and neither did it himself, nor would help me to do so when I asked him for a steamer. It will now be for the country to judge of the question, and I have no doubt that, from the House of Commons down to the humblest of Her Majesty's subjects, judgment will be in favour of the man who has paved the way for others to reap the fruit which their Lordships have deprived me.

I very earnestly and respectfully beg your Lordships' attention to the following points, which I feel it necessary to bring forward in my defence, as, in addition to the Report of the Arctic Committee, which has so unfairly and cruelly treated me, your Lordships do me now a greater injustice by withholding the only compensation it was natural I should look to.

I objected strongly in my own mind to appearing before the Arctic Committee, as I did not think it fair that a mercantile captain should be judged by a committee entirely composed of two admirals and three captains, when my statements would differ from Captain Austin's; however, there was one officer in that Committee who I felt sure would see justice done me. I believed so at the time when I resolved to obey the summons. I have no complaint to make of my treatment while examined by the Committee, and I am grateful to the Chairman in particular for his kindness and courtesy. But, my Lords, could I have expected such a one-sided Report? Yet I restrained myself from expressing what I felt, because I thought I could afford that the commander of the late naval expedition was justified at my expense, but not afford to be thrown aside myself for the future. And here permit me, my Lords, to say, in answer to the observations that have been made, that I brought accusations against Captain Austin, and am therefore the cause of the Committee, that I said nothing whatever against Captain Austin, as your Lordships well know. I disdained to say a word against him in his absence, and I was home some weeks before him. It was not till he returned, and published in the "Times" some letters of mine, with your Lordships' sanction, which was meant to show that I was the cause of his premature return, and then I was called upon in self-defence to write to your Lordships, saying how unfair it was to myself, as I had no opportunity of making any explanation of the circumstances necessary to a right understanding of it, and that I supposed it was meant to show that I was to be responsible for Captain Austin's return home; and likewise, that I had before met with unfair and unkind treatment from Captain Austin, which I felt sure some of his own officers could bear witness to. I consider that when Captain Austin published the correspondence in the "Times," it was he who was the accuser, and I became the accused party. If their Lordships had answered me that there was no intention to make me appear answerable for Captain Austin's return, and give me leave to publish their reply, I should have been satisfied, and said no more. But instead of this, I was told that I should "have an opportunity of making such explanations as I wished of the late proceedings," which was followed by my being called up for examination before the Arctic Committee.

The first thing I did when summoned before the Committee, was to say I did not wish to bring any accusations against Captain Austin, but only to be cleared of the charge which I thought the publication of those letters threw upon me, without any explanation of the circumstances. The officers of that Committee well know that I repeatedly told them I did not wish to bring any accusations against Captain Austin, if they would only satisfy me on this point. This fact is alluded to, though my words were not taken down, in the Blue Book (p. 125). Neither did I bring forward any evidence against Captain Austin which it might have been unpleasant for his officers to give, and which might compromise them, nor were any questions asked by the Committee which could tell in my favour. I must say that great care was taken throughout not to bring
out

out many points which I wished to be brought out, and my officers observed this as well as myself. I did object, however, to Captain Austin's being present all the time his own officers were examined, but my objection was not attended to, and I was told I had the same liberty myself, to be present when my officers were examined, which I declined availing myself of.

I must proceed to draw your Lordships' attention to the following points respecting the Report of the Arctic Committee:

1. First, I deny the first statement in the Report, saying that inculpations were made in my letters of the 15th September and 10th October. Permit me to say that, if I understand the expression, my letters are not inculpations. The letter of 17th September is an answer to questions put to me by the Admiralty, and I state facts as they occurred, without inculpations; and in my letter of the 10th October I say, it was in answer to Captain Austin's insinuation, published in the "Times," that I was accountable for his return, which disappointed everybody; and foreseeing this, he prepared himself with my letters, which, if I had been sure of at the time, I would never have given them. I referred, in my letter of 10th October, to Captain Austin's unkind and often contemptuous treatment of me, and said some of his officers could bear witness, which I maintain, but when called up before the Committee I would not press this; the more generous they were, the more I disdained to compromise them.

No one would suppose, on reading the Report, that the Committee had anything to form their judgment upon but these two letters, whereas their Lordships well know that I do not admit the interpretation that has been put upon them, and will not look to the long conversations previously, in which I explained to Captain Austin all I had done, and discovery of open water as far as the eye could reach, a water sky beyond it. I told him my conviction, that Sir John Franklin had passed up there in clear water, but was far beyond my reach, unless I had found further traces; and then I could not, with my means, have attempted it, being fettered by my instructions, which obliged me to return home before the winter. And no notice is taken of my asking him for a steamer, and to let me pilot her up, on account of the rapidity of the tides, which Captain Austin refused; what I could not do with my boats or my little ships might have been done by steam, and I asked him to let me pilot her, as being less objectionable than asking for the command. My second, Mr. Stewart, was with me in the cabin, and heard me ask for the steamer; it was before Captain Ommanney came in; and there are many, as appears in the evidence, who knew beforehand that it was my intention to ask for her, and heard afterwards that I had done so; yet, because Captain Austin has denied that I asked for a steamer, his word is accepted in preference to mine, and no notice whatever is taken of it.

My Lords, this is not a point to be passed over; it is of great importance to the question. Would I have asked for a steamer if I had thought that nothing else could be done? Did I not show that I wished to do something more myself? But after Captain Austin had first doubted my word about open water, and then refused, when I asked him to show his sincerity by acting in concert with me, and giving me a steamer, I was not going to take upon myself the responsibility of advising him,—he could judge for himself; he had my chart, and my expressed opinions; I had not concealed anything from him; he could not understand me to mean that Wellington Channel was thoroughly searched beyond the part where I had been myself. And I showed him where that was, and where I was obliged to turn back, but that was not what he wanted; and I think I had reason to be angry when he was not satisfied with all I had said, but wrote me a letter in terms which implied that it all went for nothing. What I had said was worth 50 letters, and I must therefore remark, that I think it was very unfair and unkind in the Arctic Committee to say he had no means of judging but by my two letters.

If their Lordships will turn to Captain Austin's evidence they will find, on his own showing, that he had determined to go home before he had any communication with me, and that all he wanted was to provide himself with something that he could show when he arrived in England. And, my Lords, I will not ask if this conduct was acting nobly to the whaling captain he had so often looked down upon, and when he had told me he was not going to make any use of my

letters. My second, Mr. Stewart, can bear witness to this, as can likewise my steward, if necessary, who was in his pantry, within a few feet, and overheard what passed. I told the Committee at the time, though they have not thought proper to do me that justice as to put it down in the Blue Book, in which are many more omissions, that I could bring this evidence before them, but I had no wish to do so. I was loath to bring any of my seamen against a post captain of the navy, but I was determined, as I told them, that I would justify myself to the world if necessary.

I do not know how the Arctic Committee can justify, at the beginning of their Report, everything which Captain Austin did. And at the end of it they recommend that another expedition should be sent to do the very thing which I wished him to do. This is not intended, however, to speak against the expedition now fitting out, but to show the inconsistency.

I can bring another argument to show that Captain Austin did not form his determination to come home upon any opinion of mine, as is proved by the fact, that he declared Sir John Franklin never went up Wellington Channel at all, and never proceeded beyond Beechey Island, and that his two ships and the whole crews were lost in 1846 in attempting to return to England. Why did Captain Austin then ask my opinion at all? He ought, in common honesty, to rest his defence upon this opinion of his own, that there was no use going up Wellington Channel, or anywhere else, for Sir John Franklin, and not upon anything he received from me. It is not for me to make any animadversions on Captain Austin's belief, which I did not hear of till he came home; but I think he should not bring forward such inconsistent reasons, and that the Arctic Committee might have taken this into account before they made me the scapegoat of everything that has not been approved of. It would be acting against my conscience if I passed by this declaration of Captain Austin's without recording my dissent from it, since my long experience of 29 years in the whalefishing in Davis' Straits and Baffin's Bay, empowers me to state that such a thing as the total loss of two ships, with the whole of their crews, leaving no vestige, is next to impossible and contrary to all experience. And I would beg to ask on what ground it is that such is made? when there was open water beyond in the right direction, and it is my opinion that they undoubtedly went that way, and I have always held the same. Besides, no man who knows anything of Sir John Franklin, but says that the idea of his going home after one winter, is little short of an insult to him, and such as is exactly the reverse of his declared intentions.

2. Their Lordships will not, I think, be surprised that I protest against the use made of my private journals, which was never intended to meet the public eye, though I was quite willing it should be used for any information it contained, but not to be used unfairly against me. The Admiralty had it a long time in their possession, and when I asked for it before the Committee sat, declined giving it up on account of the public service, though I wished for it in order to draw up some account of what had been done, and it would have been useful for reference when under examination, lest my memory should be at fault and I might contradict myself in any point of detail. It was used by picking out sentences, and leaving out others, as suited the views to be taken, the object being to show discouragement of the navigation of Wellington Channel, in order to justify the decision Captain Austin came to. This is a liberty which has not been taken with any other officers in the whole expedition, who kept their private journals to themselves. Captain Austin states, page 113 of the Blue Book, that he considers his private notes sacred, and that the transmission of journals was not understood to be required by those in the expedition. It was only mine and my officers, but if mine was made use of it should have been done fairly, and not give a meaning and draw conclusions which I deny, and which is not my own; a man ought to know his own meaning. It is easy to see the object of picking out such sentences as these: "Oh, to have been here only with my little vessels! what would we not have done in the way of search? but I fear greatly that even if we had they are beyond our reach." That is, without steam, which, if Captain Austin had given me, I would have gone 500 miles further with. Do the gentlemen of the Committee intend it to be understood, that when I say beyond my reach, I consign them to the same fate as Captain Austin? If this was intended I should not have used such a word as "reach," which shows that I thought they might have been reached if I had the means.

means. There are about 70 degrees of longitude, Wellington and Behring's Straits, and I think it will be seen that they might easily be beyond my reach in my little boat, with expended provisions and little more than one year's provision in my ships.

It is cruel likewise to my brave fellows to bring them forward to disparage them, and quote their anxiety to get home, without saying when it was they were anxious to get home, and that it was not till we had given up the search and had decided to return; not till then, when there was nothing left to care for; and if the Arctic Committee had thought proper, they might find in every page of my journal something said of my poor fellows' eagerness and enthusiasm in the search, and their going through great toil and hardships, and never flinching, and always cheerful and happy. A braver set has never been embarked in any expedition, and had the Arctic Committee witnessed their privations and suffering, and seen, as I have done, their track marked in blood from their bleeding feet, I am sure they must have in humanity folded down the leaf where I say "each man thinks it rests with himself to solve the fate of our missing countrymen;" and "the Government of the country held out a handsome reward, but this I must say, I never heard them mention such; they seem to be actuated by far higher motives."

It is not kind to quote me saying the fate of Sir John Franklin would be left in obscurity, as if it was intended to show that it could answer no purpose to carry on the search, and that I changed my language on arriving in England and finding everybody disappointed. It is necessary I should explain that I could not foresee, as I had such strict injunctions to return after one winter, that an expedition would certainly be sent out again, as it might as well have had liberty to stop when it was there, and that is why in the moment of disappointment I said, "Sir John Franklin's fate will ever remain in obscurity;" but such words as these were written hastily down in the vexation of the moment, and not to have a false construction put upon them.

The same respecting the tides, which run from four to six knots with a gale of wind; but I have been in worse places with stronger tides: in Cumberland Strait they run from seven to nine knots, and in the Pentland Frith they run nine knots. It requires proper precaution that the Channel be sufficiently clear of ice, as unquestionably they were when Sir John Franklin went through them. And this is why I wished for a steamer, on account of the rapidity of the tides; and also to make another 500 miles, which could only have been done with a steamer in a week, as it was likely we should have had to proceed so far before finding further traces.

With respect to my changing my language on arriving at home, I must beg leave to state, that I admitted to the Committee I did not think of asking the Admiralty for a steamer when I left Assistance Harbour. And I afterwards stated in my corrected evidence, which I was told was too extensive to be admitted, that my determination to ask for a steamer was made in the passage from Orkney to Aberdeen while on board Her Majesty's steamer "Tartarus," Lieutenant Commander Risk having quitted the "Lady Franklin" on meeting with the steamer, in order to get a quicker passage. I also told them that I mentioned my intentions to ask for a steamer in passing through Aberdeen, between landing from the steamer and taking the train for London. And their Lordships know that I lost not a moment's time in putting this into execution.

It was on board the Government steamer that I observed the first time the disappointment felt at my return, and then I resolved on making the trial with the Admiralty. But this does not imply that I did not before think of returning to the search. I told the Committee, though it does not appear in the evidence, that we expected the Americans had reached home, and that their Lordships would be in possession of the discovery of winter quarters, and in consequence would give instructions to remain longer. I also mentioned to my crew that if we could get to Disco and find further instructions we would return to the search. I had previously agreed with Captain Stewart, of the "Joseph Green" whaler, if he brought letters or despatches, to leave them at Cape Hay, in Lancaster Sound, or at Button Point, in Pond's Bay, and in my way homewards I examined both these places, but in vain. And I told the Committee that it very often occurred to me on the voyage home to prosecute the search. I think it is not fair, therefore, to represent, which I conclude the Arctic Committee intend, that my asking for a steamer on my return home was put into my head by others.

And

And it is quite inconsistent with my own statements as expressed in my unfortunate letter, which has been so perverted. I certainly did not at the moment think of both things together, but subsequent reflection made me hope I would be allowed to return with proper means. And how could I witness the distress which my return gave, and the information that the whole squadron was on its way home, though many did not think proper to believe me on this point, without determining that all that man could do should be done by me, to answer the expectations formed, and to save the noble Sir John and his brave companions?

3, 4. I shall say nothing more on the slighting way in which the Report speaks of my conversation with Captain Austin, which they are pleased to call desultory, but upon which much depends, remarking, however, that if he could not understand my conversation because it was so rambling, with my chart before him, and the explanations I gave, how could he expect to understand my letters, which it appears he did not (see page 37); he knew well I was not a writer of official despatches, and saw no occasion for it, and had been refused by him what I wanted. The prudence of Captain Austin, so commended by the Committee, will not be disputed, as experience has shown.

I must remonstrate against the intention of the Committee when they put in italics my words in one of these letters, "*all had been done which was in the power of man to accomplish.*" This was true as regarded myself; and that was my meaning. Had I been in Captain Austin's place, who had more liberal instructions, and also steam, I should have judged differently; but I was not responsible for his actions, after he had twice refused me the help which the Admiralty instructions desired him to afford me, namely, once for the boat, and then for the steamer which I asked him for.

5. The Committee say, that though I endeavour to draw a distinction between Wellington Strait and the Channel to the north-west, which I have since named Queen Victoria Channel, yet no such distinction appears in my track chart I gave to Captain Austin at the time, and therefore he could not be expected to know of any such distinction. I am indeed surprised at such an assertion. Why, my Lords, my track chart has no names whatever, neither Wellington Channel nor Queen Victoria Channel; there is not a single name on it; and am I to be told, that with this chart before his eyes, and I explaining it, Captain Austin could not understand what part of the Channel I was talking about? Does Captain Austin mean to say, when my parting words were, "Go up Wellington Channel, Captain Austin, and do good service to the cause," that I advised him to go no farther than Wellington Channel? Had I not shown him on the chart how far I could answer for being searched, and I would not take upon myself to answer for more? Let any one look at my chart at the end of the Blue Book, and judge for themselves what part was searched and what part was not searched, if there could be any doubt about it.

When I came home I insisted on it being called Queen Victoria Channel, to make sure of my discoveries not being disputed. In my letter of the 15th September to the Admiralty, I say I have called it, for the present, Queen Victoria Channel, and I may explain what I mean by this is, that if Sir John Franklin, as I believe, was the first to go up this Channel, the right to name it belongs to him; and he has named it. I should have no objection to its being called Wellington Channel till then, if it had not become a subject of dispute, and my character affected by it.

6. The Report goes on to state, that Captain Austin was fully justified after this in leaving Wellington Straits and going to Jones' Sound, "to which," say the Committee, "his own instructions, as well as Mr. Penny's, directed attention." I have read carefully through Captain Austin's instructions, and cannot find that Jones' Sound is once mentioned in them. And if the Committee mean Sir James Ross's instructions, which were given to the "North Star," I find that his attention was called, in the first place, to Wellington Strait and Prince Regent Inlet, and afterwards to Jones' Sound and Smith Sound. It was when Captain Austin was going away to Jones' Sound, a few hours after he refused me the steamer for Wellington Channel, that I said to him, "Go up Wellington Channel and do good service to the cause." I see in the evidence, that Captain Austin and Captain Ommanney have so forgotten this that they deny it; but I can

I can bring witnesses to prove it who heard me say it. Their Lordships know that I was not able to obey their instructions to proceed, in the first instance, to Alderman Jones' Sound, on account of the state of the ice, which prevented my approaching it in 1850; and the same forbid me in the strictest manner to pass a second winter in the ice, unless I had "a certain prospect of coming up with any part of the missing Expedition," which I had not, being without steam, and as I expected it might be 500 miles farther before finding fresh traces.

7. Without disrespect to the naval officers forming the Committee, I cannot but say, that what they put forward under this head seems full of inconsistencies, which I shall not stop to notice, but only to say that they think one of the Expeditions should have examined near the entrance of Wellington Channel a fortnight longer, and they fix upon me as the one who ought to have remained, though I have given reasons enough already why I could not have done so to any purpose without the assistance of steam, which had been denied me.

But I cannot pass over the following observations, which is to the effect that both Captain Austin and myself were fully justified in returning home before there was a risk of being detained in the ice another winter, giving as one reason for this opinion, that the route taken by Sir John Franklin's ships was "a mere matter of conjecture." I beg to add that, with Sir John Franklin's instructions before me, empowering him to go up Wellington Channel, or, as it is called in the instructions, the channel between Cornwallis Islands and Devon, not to mention my own discoveries as to the navigable nature of that channel, I could come to no such conclusion. No, my Lords, if my return could not be justified on better grounds than that the route Sir John Franklin had taken was a mere matter of conjecture, I could not think I had any right to be justified at all.

I will state in this place, agreeable to my evidence, that when I saw Sir John Ross taken in tow by Captain Austin to come home, I was determined I should be home before them on account of the disrepute which would be thrown on what I had done. This would not have prevented me, however, from touching at Disco if I could have done so, in order to see if Mr. Saunders had landed his provisions there from the North Star, as he seemed disposed to do when I saw him in Lancaster Sound, though I did my best to show him that could not be their Lordships' meaning, and if I had found the provisions at Disco, and further instructions, I would have returned to the search.

8. I shall pass over the commendation of the conduct of the officers of both expeditions and the travelling parties, but am called upon to say, that if the "mercantile expedition," which Captain Austin calls it (in his circular addressed to the American commander and myself), deserves what is said, then why is it not acknowledged the only way their Lordships can? Everybody knows we had no promotions and Government situations to look to, and we wanted nothing but to be employed again, for which we have anxiously waited, and rejected all other offers. Their Lordships well know they have no other reward to bestow. It is true, and I perfectly agree with the Committee, that the journees exceed all that have been accomplished before; and respecting that expedition which I had the honour to command, the dragging a boat with great labour over 120 miles of hummocky ice, and launching her into open water, is a new feature, as well as my dog sledges, which answered admirably. At one time every man in the expedition was on foot, and the two ships left in charge of one man, being the steward and clerk in charge. And with respect to "perfect health," a reference to the medical reports will show that my men, with all their hard labour, which was greater than anything ever done in that country, in a comparative point of view suffered less than any others, owing to the care taken of them.

9. The Committee conclude the strong presumption there is that Sir John Franklin did not pass to the south-west, and observe that conjecture naturally turns towards Wellington Straits. Yes, my Lords, and more than conjecture. Would it be supposed that, with Sir John Franklin's instructions before them, they would keep them out of sight altogether, and refer in the margin to nothing but verbal information for his looking to make a passage to the north-west, and to treat it as only "one chance," and the noble channel I discovered as only "a possible outlet." The five gentlemen of the Arctic Committee, I make bold to say, are the only persons who entertain this doubtful opinion. Lieutenant, now Commander, M^cClintock, in his evidence, goes so far as to say that this

why Sir John Franklin left no record at his winter quarters in Wellington Channel to guide others which route he took, because it was in accordance with his instructions that he should go up Wellington Channel. But I fear, when Captain Austin says Franklin did not go that way, they are afraid of hurting his feelings, and the same when they express (No. 10) the considerable hesitation and anxiety they feel in replying to their Lordships' request, namely, what benefits can be expected from any further research. I should have expected it was the last point on which they would feel difficulty or hesitation.

11. But this is the portion of the Report which surprises me most of all. I could wish the Committee had not only said they should deeply grieve to treat with coldness and indifference the feelings of nearest and dearest relatives, but had shown the truth of what they profess. It was cruel consolation to those who were suffering so much, to tell the world that they were "clinging to hope even against hope." At the very moment they were recommending another expedition (not without hope) to follow the path which all unbiassed minds must agree will lead to the rescue or solve the secret of their fate, it was cruel in the extreme.

But let me tell that Committee that the exertions and sacrifices made by the devoted wife and niece of the gallant Franklin for his rescue will be handed down to posterity when their one-sided Report will be consigned to oblivion. Not satisfied with accusing these respected individuals of hoping against hope, they next attempt to disparage their judgment, representing them as ready and eager for any explorations, "any and every," no matter in what direction, when it is well known to the contrary, that they wished for search only in the right direction. And let me remind the Committee, that before it was ascertained by the last expedition which way the missing ships must have gone, they themselves knew no better which to choose of the two. It is hard to think that such sentiments emanate from a Committee, when at least one member was a personal friend, and the other, on a previous occasion, a fellow traveller in hardships and suffering.

Having considered this "difficult question," the Committee felt they had an equally important duty to perform towards the brave men whose lives must be risked in the search, and to reflect in what manner it may be conducted with a due regard to their safety." No one will dispute this last duty, which is the first that any officer commanding an expedition will look to; and such officer will be able better to provide for, as circumstances occur, and according to his experience. The risk of life is not such as the Committee imply, with proper care, as appears by reference to (No. 8), where it is seen that in the late expeditions all the parties returned to England after their hardships and dangers in perfect health, with one exception.

12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Under all these heads the Committee lay down rules for the next expedition, and they begin by recommending that only four ships should be sent instead of six, which were sent last time, not to reckon Sir John Ross's vessel and the Americans; and these four ships are to be the two sailing ships and two steamers of Captain Austin, a hint to their Lordships not very difficult to understand, that the whaling captain and his vessels are to have no share in the search. Everything that was said before leads to this: so, because a year will have passed away, and so much the more reason there is for adding ship to ship to make up for it, two ships are cut off and left to rot in the river. No doubt the Committee think it is of more consequence to get rid of the man who pioneered the way and pointed out what could be done, than to make up for lost time and failures much to be lamented.

Seeing myself put aside, I might be dispensed with making any remarks on the recommendation of the Committee for the future search, but my conscience will not permit me. I warn their Lordships respectfully, from a sense of duty, that if they have any real wish to save Her Majesty's subjects in the service of their country, such an expedition as the Committee recommend will be an utter failure, and only deceive the country and waste the public funds. It is to be hoped no officer in Her Majesty's navy that values his reputation and what the country expects from him, will commit himself by accepting the command.

Would it be believed, after all the experience of former expeditions, that they can expect to find Sir John Franklin between the August of one year and the August of the next, when he is gone far beyond the reach of any such searching parties,

parties, who are ordered with strict injunctions not to advance to such a distance as to endanger their return by that time at latest. Poor Sir John Franklin! They think it "highly improbable" that some trace of him should not be found by the exploring parties in the upper part of Wellington Channel, but no liberty is given to follow them up, and they are to abandon their ships, only two of which are to search, and two remain behind, sooner than endanger their return.

I told the Committee (which is not put down in the evidence) that if they did not combine the search for Sir John Franklin with scientific purposes, his fate would never be ascertained; if they are afraid to make the North West Passage which Sir John Franklin was sent to make, it is not to be expected, humanity requires he should not be left to perish because he is far advanced; we do not know how far, having the means of subsistence, as I am persuaded, in the country itself; and all the more likely to be preserved in health because they would have to seek it, and thus have their minds and bodies actively employed.

It is also possible that some of their own stock may have been eked out, considering their determination and forethought from the earliest period of their voyage; and that their numbers, under most favourable circumstances, may be somewhat reduced. The Esquimaux, as Dr. Scoresby says, "in similar regions as cold, as desolate, and as apparently resourceless (altogether resourceless indeed, except in Arctic animals), live out not six or seven winters merely, but a fair portion of the ordinary life of man;" and, he adds, "Why may they not be yet surviving amid the desolation of Arctic solitudes, and the wreck of the hopes of the timid and doubting?"

I shall make no farther remarks on the proposed expedition of the Committee, which enter into detail better to be considered by the officer in command. I have read Sir John Franklin's instructions, Sir James Ross's, Captain Collinson's, and Captain Austin's, and see nothing of the kind dictated, but they are left to employ the means they have to the best of their ability according to circumstances, but restricted as to time, except Sir John Franklin, who is not restricted as to time, and hence the unfairness, not to say the folly, of imposing restrictions on those who follow him. No man who has a proper sense of his duty, but will look to the safety and health of his crew in the first instance, and always bear it uppermost in his mind, but I will venture to assure the Committee that no man who does his duty in any circumstances, but must run some risk if he would do it conscientiously. This is said in reference to the Committee's fears of "risk of loss or danger," taking no note that each fresh expedition has larger resources as well as more experience in ice travelling, and falling back on depôts, than the preceding.

18, 19. The paragraph 4, to which their Lordships are referred in Captain Austin's instructions, contains all the liberty that a commander could desire, if paragraph 7 is omitted.

I pass on to where the Committee say they have thought it right to request the opinion of the gentlemen named in the margin, "on this interesting but most difficult question," which I am sorry to find they think so difficult, and that they should ask those officers who have consigned Sir John Franklin to destruction in his way home, for their opinion as to the future search, and how it should be conducted. I had the honour to submit my plan of search to the Committee when called upon, and it is a great satisfaction to see the similarity to the plans of Sir John Richardson and Dr. Scoresby, which are entitled to great weight. It was hardly to be expected, when the Committee thought proper to ask my advice as the commander of one of the late expeditions, that it was their intention to discard me altogether from future operations.

I may further remark, that if their Lordships will turn to Captain Austin's letter on this subject, they will find that he is at great loss to account for the sudden disappearance of Sir John Franklin without leaving any vestige of his fate; nevertheless, he is convinced he did not penetrate to the south-west, and declares he has "no confidence in my representation that Sir John Franklin had gone away in clear water beyond our reach (say 500 miles);" he neither believes in the open water of Wellington Straits, nor in the water sky beyond; and after this would I have thought, my Lords, that an officer of such high rank in Her Majesty's navy would demean himself to throw on the man he discredited the responsibility of his own conduct? I was infatuated to write that letter. I told

the Committee, had they been sitting in my little cabin from the commencement of the voyage to the end of it, not an act had I to regret, but writing that letter.

20. Under this head I gladly avail myself of the opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments to the generous hearted Osborne for many useful suggestions as to the travelling equipments, also for a boat, his own property, kindly bestowed upon me; it being understood that I was not furnished with the travelling equipment put on board of Captain Austin's ships, but had everything to make on board my vessels, and by the time I returned from my second journey to the open water every bit of wood and iron was used up, so that this reason alone, letting alone any other, would have made it impossible for me to renew the exploration.

21, 22. Adam Beck's story of the loss of the ships and remainder of the crews. The treatment of this by the Committee has, I believe, excited the surprise of everybody who has read the Report. Surely if they thought it worth their while to notice such an absurd story, which Sir John Ross is the only man in the whole united squadron that believes, they were competent to express their contempt for it, instead of telling the Admiralty and the public that Sir John Ross still attaches much weight to it, referring to his evidence where he states as much. They should have asked if he gave much weight to it after the paper was exposed which he had witnessed and put his name to, and which the Committee refer to. The story was fully investigated at the time, and contradicted to the general satisfaction by my interpreter, Mr. Petersen, at the expense of 12 hours' delay in Baffin's Bay, which I willingly submitted to, though losing a favourable wind, and on rejoining Captain Austin's squadron found myself unkindly left behind, while the "Felix" and "Prince Albert" were taken in tow—a shabby return for the service I had been happy to render.

It must be left to Sir John Ross to explain why the convicted liar, Adam Beck (who says of himself, "Adam Beck no good—I lie,") should be believed in his old story, when made to swear it before a magistrate at Godhaven in Greenland. This "subsequent deposition," the Committee says, "was sent to Copenhagen for translation, and has not been returned." It is a pity their Lordships should not call for it and make it public here. I am indeed surprised the Committee should seriously suppose their Lordships capable of deferring another expedition in consequence of it not coming in time. I can only suppose it is out of compassion for another gallant brother officer.

23. In this article, which winds up the Report, the Committee decline to offer any suggestions for the relief of the missing ships in the direction of Behring's Strait, which is equivalent, as it appears to me, to informing their Lordships they need not do anything, or throwing away the responsibility from themselves; it is not for want of representations. Independent of my own expressed opinions in the memorandum I presented, in which I say that the Wellington Channel expedition would be greatly aided by vessels coming to meet them from Behring's Strait, there is the much superior authority of Captain Kellett; he is the best qualified person to judge, as he knows more of Behring's Straits than any other officer. Their Lordships know his opinion, that screw steamers should be sent to search for Sir John Franklin north of Behring's Strait. I would be loath to think it, but the Arctic Committee seems to regard it as their duty to recommend as little as they can.

This is the whole of the Report of the Arctic Committee. My Lords, out of respect to your Lordships, I do not say what I think of the Arctic Committee, the Report of the Arctic Committee, nor what I know that is thought of it by many of the best and noblest in the land.

I say to myself, they have sacrificed the whaling master to the post-captain, and that might be expected; but would it be thought that they would show no more feeling for their poor brother officers who are perishing for want of help, and stab to the heart that noble lady, whose sufferings and all she has done deserves to be honoured. I tell your Lordships that such an expedition as the Arctic Committee recommend had better stay at home; Sir John Franklin has gone far beyond the reach of it. It may take two or three years, even with steam, to get up to him, but I am persuaded he will be found, or some of his party, alive or dead, if we will only follow him up.

I entreat their Lordships to give their attention to what I say, and to give ample means and full discretionary power to the officer that has the command.

He

He must be the responsible party, not fettered with instructions. The Committee checked what I was about to say, but I must repeat it here : Should any brave and determined man want further orders than to go and find Sir John Franklin? Their Lordships will not find fault with him for doing this in any way he can, and sees fit to try, provided he does the work he is ordered to do. There should be six ships, not fewer than before, and another steamer; the sailing vessels to fall back upon, and the steamers to explore; and if your Lordships think proper, two of the ships might push on to Byam Martin Channel, and while the steamer goes up, foot or boat parties should be sent to Winter Harbour in Melville Island, to look after Captain Collinson and Commander McClure, for they may not be able to get there in their ships, and their foot parties will be much exhausted, and not find at Melville Island what they expected, or any record to tell them of my discoveries, and that Sir John Franklin went up Wellington Channel.

I have thought it my duty respectfully to give you my opinion; it shall never be said of Penny that his services were rejected, and he flung away the cause which he holds sacred, as he was flung away himself.

I hope, my Lords, you will have no reason to repent of your conduct to me. If the expedition comes back unsuccessful, I shall feel that I have done my duty; and when everybody else despairs, I will be ready to devote myself to the search, for let me be allowed to say to your Lordships, that if the search for Sir John Franklin is given up before his fate is ascertained, it will be a disgrace to the country.

My Lords, I humbly beg you will reconsider your decision, assuring you that you have nothing to fear from my acting in concert, and co-operating with all my best endeavours with any officer in Her Majesty's navy, or independently; nothing of the same kind can ever take place again, as you must be aware, without my saying anything farther disrespectful of the late Commander. And if your Lordships do not think proper to do me justice, and rob me of my discoveries, I hope your Lordships will allow that it is due to my character to make public this correspondence, to which I shall add some other explanatory documents.

I take the liberty of forwarding depositions taken before a magistrate of the truth of what I have stated in my evidence before the Committee. They are made by witnesses, and ought not to be required, for the honour of a whaling master is as dear to him as a post-captain of the navy. The man you have thrown aside devoted all the energy of his nature to the search, and would do so again; it was your Lordships' own instructions that forced him back, and which he was bound to obey, but you cannot deprive him of the honour of having pioneered the way, and but for him the search would never be resumed.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Wm. Penny.*

At ABERDEEN, the 3d day of February 1852, in presence of Alexander Henderson, Esq., one of the Magistrates for the City of Aberdeen, N. B.

APPEARED Alexander Robertson, late steward on board the "Lady Franklin," and did solemnly declare, that on the evening of the 11th day of August last, I was on board the said vessel when Captains Austin and Ommamney came on board that vessel; I was then in the pantry, and heard these captains request Captain Penny, or at least Captain Austin requested him to sign a document, stating that it was of no further use to extend the search in Wellington Channel; Captain Penny refused to grant such a document, and appeared excited at the request. I heard Captain Penny say that he could not take upon himself the fearful responsibility of giving the document. Captain Penny said, that so far as he had gone there was no use to search again, and that with the resources in his power nothing more could be done, even by staying another winter; Captain Austin replied, that he did not wish to stay another winter, and that he wanted the document to justify himself in going home, and that no use would be made of it in any way prejudicial to Captain Penny's interest. Captain Penny however refused to grant the letter. Captain Stewart, who was present, advised

Captain Penny to grant the letter, saying, he was sure Captain Austin did not intend to make any dishonourable use of it. On the same day, I had received a letter, sent by Captain Austin, which I delivered to Captain Penny; and I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the fifth and sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to repeal an Act of the present Session of Parliament, intituled An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various departments of the State, and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof; and for the more entire suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial Oaths and Affidavits, and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary Oaths."

(signed) *Alexander Robertson.*

Alexander Henderson.

3d February 1852.

John Leiper was second mate on board the "Lady Franklin;" and I do solemnly declare that I recollect of seeing Captains Austin and Ommanney on board the said vessel on the morning of the 12th of August last, between five and six o'clock; I was then in charge of the watch. Captain Penny was on deck. He and the other two captains were talking together when Captains Austin and Ommanney were going over the gangway. I was in the main rigging, and only a very few yards from them; I heard Captain Penny at this time say to Captain Austin, "Go up Wellington Channel, and you will do good service in the cause." I saw from the manner of the parties that there had been some disagreement. At the time I heard the above statement by Captain Penny, James Hodgson, seaman, was at the wheel. And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the fifth and sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to repeal an Act of the present Session of Parliament, intituled an Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various departments of the State, and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof; and for the more entire suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial Oaths and Affidavits, and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary Oaths."

(signed) *John Leiper.*

Alexander Henderson,

Magistrate.

3d February 1852.

James Hodgson was a seaman on board the "Lady Franklin;" I recollect of Captains Austin and Ommanney coming on board the said vessel one morning about five o'clock. This was during Leiper's watch. I heard them and Captain Penny talking together, but I did not pay attention to what was said; I knew however from their manner and words, that the conversation was not pleasant. As Captains Austin and Ommanney were leaving the vessel, I heard Captain Penny say in a loud voice, "Go up Wellington Channel, sir, and do good to the cause." At this time Leiper was within two or three yards of them. I had taken the wheel at four o'clock in the morning, and when I heard what is above stated, I was within from seven to ten yards of Captain Penny and the other two captains, and I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true.

(signed) *James Hodgson.*

Alexander Henderson.

And by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the fifth and sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to repeal an Act of the present Session of Parliament, intituled an Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various departments of the State, and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof; and for the more entire suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial Oaths and Affidavits, and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary Oaths."

(signed) *James Hodgson.*

Alexander Henderson,

Magistrate.

Sir,

200, Piccadilly, 18 February 1852.

I HAVE the honour to request to be informed whether their Lordships have taken my letter into consideration, if not, I beg you will enclose the depositions taken before a magistrate at Aberdeen.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Wm. Penny.*

To the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Admiralty, 19 February 1852.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that they are sorry that they cannot avail themselves of the offer of your services.

The depositions referred to in your letter of this day's date are herewith returned to you.

I am, &c.

(signed) *J. Parker.*

Mr. Wm. Penny, 200, Piccadilly.

— No. 2. —

INFORMATION relative to the Rumours at Byron's Bay, concerning
Sir John Franklin.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 19 February 1852.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's consul at Woahoo, containing information respecting naval movements, and the rumours at Byron's Bay concerning Sir John Franklin.

I am, &c.

(signed) *H. U. Addington.*

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

Enclosure.

(No. 20.)

My Lord,

Woahoo, 22 September 1851.

REITERATED rumours having been circulated that some individuals had arrived on the island of Owyhee, bringing intelligence respecting the expedition of Sir John Franklin, I suggested to Commander Aldham, commanding Her Majesty's sloop "Swift," the expediency of his proceeding to Byron's Bay in order to ascertain the truth.

I the more readily made this suggestion, conceiving that a visit of a British ship of war to Owyhee might also otherwise be productive of some good, in view of the actual political state of affairs at these islands. Accordingly Captain Aldham, with the vessel under his command, sailed from this on the 25th ultimo, arrived at Byron's Bay on the 5th, and returned to Honolulu on the 12th instant, having ascertained, I regret to say, that the rumours circulated with regard to Sir John Franklin and his expedition were mere fabrications, as stated in his report to me, a copy of which I herewith enclose.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Wm. Miller.*

The Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

H. M. S. "Swift,"

Honolulu, 12 September 1851.

IN reference to communication of 21 August 1851, "That reiterated rumours to the effect that a person or some persons have recently arrived at Owyhee, from the Arctic Ocean, bringing intelligence of Sir John Franklin's expedition,

No. 20.
22 Sept. 1851.

12 Sept. 1851.

expedition, and believing it moreover, that a visit of a British ship of war to that island, under existing political circumstances, of which I am informed, would be desirable, and that you suggest the expediency of Her Majesty's sloop 'Swift,' under my command, proceeding to and remaining for a few days at Byron's Bay, to ascertain if there be any foundation for the rumours alluded to:—

I have the honour to inform you that I left Honolulu, in Her Majesty's sloop "Swift," for the above purpose, and arrived at Byron's Bay on the 1st instant, when I immediately waited on Mr. Petman, chief collector of customs to his Hawaiian Majesty, and through him caused every inquiry to be made, not only at Byron's Bay, but at other ports, which are occasionally visited by vessels. It is with much regret I announce to you that nothing of Sir J. Franklin or any part of his expedition had been heard of, nor had any vessel arrived from the Arctic Regions during this year; that the rumours and reports circulated at Honolulu with regard to Sir J. Franklin and his expedition are mere fabrications.

Having made these inquiries with as much expedition as the nature of them would allow, and having been detained by unfavourable winds for two days, I sailed from Byron's Bay for Honolulu, the 10th instant, where I arrived this day.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Cornwallis Aldham,*
Commander.

Wm. Miller, Esq.
H. B. M.'s Consul-general, Honolulu.

— No. 3. —

TRANSLATION of *Adam Beck's* Deposition, relative to the Missing Expedition under *Sir John Franklin*.

Admiralty, 28 January 1852.

CAPTAIN HAMILTON presents his compliments to Mr. Addington, and takes the liberty of sending herewith a letter received from the Hudson's Bay House, addressed to the Rev. Dr. Grundtrig, at Copenhagen, containing a deposition (copy of which is also enclosed) made by Adam Beck, the interpreter who accompanied Sir John Ross's expedition, relative to the missing expedition under Sir John Franklin, and will feel obliged, if Mr. Addington will be good enough to cause the same to be forwarded to Copenhagen; and, in the event of Dr. Grundtrig's absence from that city, will take steps to obtain a translation of the deposition through the British embassy, and transmit the same to Captain Hamilton, for the information of their Lordships.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 26 February 1852.

WITH reference to Captain Hamilton's letter to Mr. Addington, of the 28th ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Copenhagen, enclosing a letter from Dr. Grundtrig to the secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company, together with a translation of the deposition of Adam Beck, relative to the missing expedition under Sir John Franklin.

John Parker, Esq. M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. H. Layard.*

Enclosure.

My Lord,

Copenhagen, 15 February 1852.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch, No. 14, I have the honour to enclose a letter from Pastor Grundtrig to the secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company,

Company, covering a translation of the deposition made by Adam Beck, which will not however, I fear, throw any light to be depended on, on the fate of the expedition under Sir John Franklin.

Earl Granville,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. Wynn.*

Sub-Enclosure.

Sir,

Copenhagen, 13 February 1852.

BEGGING your pardon for the delay that has taken place with regard to the execution of the commission with which I have been honoured, I am happy now to be able to forward to you the wished for translations of the document in question, which, however, I suspect to be of no great importance.

The Danish translation from the original has been made by a missionary, Mr. Nøsted, the most able man in that line that was to be met with, and who I trust is thoroughly conversant with the Greenlandic language, having lately for several years been resident in the colony, and being at present employed by the Danish government in translating a book of hymns into that language.

The English translation from the Danish is perfectly correct, made by Mr. George Stephens, professor of English literature in the University of Copenhagen, a native Englishman, and a distinguished northern scholar.

I make use of the occasion to express my most ardent wishes for the success of the noble and persevering endeavour of Her British Majesty's Government and the Hudson Bay Company for rescuing and restoring, or at least ascertaining the fate of that brave and distinguished pioneer of science and civilization, who for so long a time has been missed, but not forgotten, by his great and grateful country.

A. Barclay, Esq., &c. &c.
Hudson's Bay House.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *N. F. S. Grundtvig.*

Enclosure, in Sub-Enclosure.

Holsteinberg, 3 July 1850.

At my departure, everything went well for the first two days; nothing disagreeable happened to me; but on the third day my first misfortune happened. Three men took me and threw me overboard; they cast me into the water, and my head went round. [I became light headed.] At that time I could not speak English, and it was therefore these three men treated me in this manner, either to make game of me, or with serious designs on my life. These people, who thus threw me into the water, and were three, were called, the first Alexander Tudar; the second, Alexander Murray; and the third, James Fresier; these are the chief of them. But my ship's captain knew nothing of my being treated in this manner. His name was Sir John Ross. This Ross had a great regard for me, and I was not less attached to him. As we advanced we observed no natives among the ice masses, but as we went on still farther, there came ships toward us with large crews; they approached very near, and told us to keep outside the great ice. When we had passed the heaviest ice masses, towards evening of the next day, steering along the outer edge of the land, we got sight of three natives, who came towards us. Our chief told me to meet them as soon as we came nearer the land-ice (with the ship), the distance in depth of half a [Danish] mile. At this distance we met people, and when we came to them, Captain Philipps, one of our ship chiefs, told me to speak to them in my own language, but I answered him, "Wait a little, till we come nearer to them." I now walked over the ice, and said to them, "How are you? Answer me!" One of them shouted to the others as loud as he could, "They have a native with them!" His comrades repeated, "They have a native with them; he talks as we do; yes, it is an inuuk; let him come to me, for he spoke first to me." But I answered them, continuing to ask whether they had seen any ships. They replied, "No, we have seen none." But I answered, and continued, "But saw you none last autumn?" They replied, "Yesterday we saw two ships." I then asked them, "Where are the ships which

which you saw?" But the natives answered, "To the east and south of us we met some which had a native on board, but some of his words we did not understand." I knew by this directly, that it was Carl Petersen; and I said to them again, "Have you seen no other ships?" "Yes, one ship have we seen, which was at Omenak." And I said, "Have you not seen others?" "No, we have seen no others; but the chief of one of the strongly-manned ships gave his natives their pictures (or pictures of European women)." But one of them whispered to his comrade, and said, "Well, let us kill them directly, for their women are doubtless like them." But I straight asked them, "Who is it you would kill?" They answered only, and said, "The Europe people are not worth fearing! Certainly not, we shall not fear them; they and we are equally to be feared. By Omenak (not far from Omenak) we have seen two ships, which were set on fire last fall by the natives." But I asked, "Where have these natives gone to?" They answered me, "The ship has certainly had them as father (=carried them on board)." And I inquired, "Whither?" And they replied, "They went down!" And I asked them again, "Down where?" And they answered, "They went to the sea-bottom!" The next day, on our departure, we saw two ships to the east of us. They came to us, but I did not know them; but they called them Lide (?) Franklin, Esquire. With a strong-manned (=ship, vessel, sloop), we went towards them, and got alongside them on the left hand, at some distance. While we kept still they came over to us in a ship's boat; I directly knew the man again whom I saw yesterday, whose name was Kallasèk (=Navle*), in company with Carl Petersen. He came near us, after he had climbed up the edge of the ship, and said, "Adam, you are a liar!" As he addressed me in this way I did not answer him. This Kallasèk asked me directly [? I asked this Kallasèk directly], "Where are these ships, then? Have you destroyed them (perhaps =lost sight of them)?" They answered me, "We don't know!" Petersen knows the language of the Europeans; yet this same Petersen would not talk of their manners (way of acting). I now turned straight to him, and ordered him to tell me directly what ships these were, as I did not know whether they were whale-ships or whether they were the royal discovery ships. He answered me deceitfully, "Don't speak in that way. If we two are away several months yet, our earned money will be much more." I answered him, "It is the same to me whether I earn money or not. This seems to me to be enough, as long as my father lives. If you see him alive, I shall be glad, but do not tell him that I am gone away, and travel continually onward. He lives always in my memory, as an old man when I left him.

To this I will add: This native, Kallasèk, said to me, that these ships had four swords, that one of them should be taken with the sword; its name was Kárkok, and it had three united swords. For this cause I, Adam, have spoken the truth, and shall not grow weary of speaking the truth; if hereafter I am ordered to Omenak, I can go too.

God be thanked, that Sir John Franklin is come!

When we in the autumn made a journey, we came to (the place) Pitsé (Fabricius' Ordbog [Dictionary], p. 380; north of Pitsersfik = the place where any one has died), got ashore, and saw the first place he (Franklin) had landed at. That is we saw his three (buried) dead, who had died in the autumn of 1846. There we remained four days, and there I got one of the ship's company as my enemy. This was Murray. There, on the morning of the fourth day, while I was running away, and three of the ship's crew were after me (to the hills) without their getting up to me, and who therefore turned back again while I continued to fly, I got eyes on a cross-tree. I went to this timber-cross, and saw that a brass plate was hammered (inlaid) in it, with a long inscription in the English tongue. But I did not understand it, as it is not my speech. I only knew [could read] thus much: September 3d 1846. I thankfully drew it out directly from the side [of the post],† and intended to take it home with me. On my way over the hills I slid over the snow, for the snow, like an ice-hill, had

* [Anglicè—Navle.]

† [What follows, shows the meaning to be:—I directly drew it (the post, brass plate and all) from the side (of the hill); for he has the post safe.]

had first been thawed, and then had frozen again. This brass plate, which I had found, I lost again, and could not go back [to look for it], as I had no weapon (ice-hook) with me, and could not walk up the ice-hill.

Only the wood did I bring back with me, and lost what was written upon it. The wooden post alone was brought home, to use for fire-wood in the summer. This wood which I found I have marked with my name, because I will keep it.

In my winter abode I have been very unlucky, for my wicked shipmates spoke ill of me to my master. They forged a lie against me, although they were the guilty persons. They opened a cask of brandy with a gimlet, and now and then they stole some of it. The people who did this laid the blame on me, and I was therefore dangerously situated, although I was altogether innocent. In the mean time I am glad of this lying accusation against me, inasmuch as we shall all be placed before God after death.

I hope that Heaven will preserve my friend, the dear Ross, in the coming time. Now I part from you; I give you my hand, and bid you farewell. Hereafter shall we see each other no more to our life's end; may we meet in the joy of Heaven!

Farewell!

I, thy very dear,

Adam Beck.

Godhavn, 30 August 1851.

The undersigned has translated literally the Greenland document, so as to express the natural phraseology of the Eskimoes as correctly as possible. As far as I can judge by the hand, the style and the construction of this document, it has been written by the schoolmaster, Paul Erik Rasmussen, of the Godhavn station.

(signed) *Nøsted,*

Seminary Warden and Missionary
at Jacobshavn.

Copenhagen, 6 February 1852.

The contradictions and obscurities in the above strange opus are not my fault. I have translated it as literally and correctly as I could from the Danish, without regard to elegance of expression. To make sense of it is another thing. I have added the explanatory words within brackets []; those within parentheses () are in the original Danish.

(signed) *George Stephens,*

Professor of English Literature in the
University of Copenhagen.

Copenhagen,
10 February 1852.

Admiralty, }
23 February 1852. }

J. H. Hay,
Chief Clerk.

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