

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

Copies of a correspondence with the lady of Sir John Franklin, relative to the expedition to the arctic regions under the command of her husband.

JANUARY 4, 1850.

Read, referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :

I herewith submit to you copies of a correspondence with the lady of Sir John Franklin, relative to the well-known expedition under his command to the arctic regions, for the discovery of a northwest passage. On the receipt of her first letter imploring the aid of the American government in a search for the missing ships, engaged in an enterprise which interested all civilized nations, I anxiously sought the means of affording that assistance, but was prevented from accomplishing the object I had in view, in consequence of the want of vessels suitable to encounter the perils of a proper exploration, the lateness of the season, and the want of an appropriation by Congress to enable me to furnish and equip an efficient squadron for that object. All that I could do, in compliance with a request which I was deeply anxious to gratify, was to cause the advertisements of reward promulgated by the British government, and the best information I could obtain as to the means of finding the vessels under the command of Sir John Franklin, to be widely circulated among our whalers and seafaring men, whose spirit of enterprise might lead them to the inhospitable regions where that heroic officer and his brave followers, who periled their lives in the cause of science and for the benefit of the world, were supposed to be imprisoned among the icebergs, or wrecked upon a desert shore.

Congress being now in session, the propriety and expediency of an appropriation for fitting out an expedition to proceed in search of the missing ships, with their officers and crews, is respectfully submitted to your consideration.

Z. TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, *January 4, 1850.*

The Lady of Sir John Franklin to the President.

BEDFORD PLACE, LONDON, April 4, 1849.

SIR: I address myself to you as the head of a great nation whose power to help me I cannot doubt, and in whose disposition to do so I have a confidence which I trust you will not deem presumptuous.

The name of my husband, Sir John Franklin, is probably not unknown to you. It is intimately connected with the northern part of that continent of which the American republic forms so vast and conspicuous a portion. When I visited the United States three years ago, amongst the many proofs I received of respect and courtesy, there was none which touched and even surprised me more than the appreciation everywhere expressed to me of his former services in geographical discovery, and the interest felt in the enterprise in which he was then known to be engaged.

The expedition fitted out by our government for the discovery of the Northwest passage, (that question which, for three hundred years, has engaged the interest and baffled the energies of the man of science and the navigator,) sailed under my husband's command, in May, 1845. The two ships, "Erebus" and "Terror," contained one hundred and thirty-eight men, (officers and crews,) and were victualled for three years. They were not expected home, unless success had early rewarded their efforts, or some casualty hastened their return, before the close of 1847, nor were any tidings expected from them in the interval. But when the autumn of 1847 arrived without any intelligence of the ships, the attention of her Majesty's government was directed to the necessity of searching for and conveying relief to them, in case of their being imprisoned in ice, or wrecked, and in want of provisions and means of transport. For this purpose an expedition, in three divisions, was fitted out in the early part of last year, directed to three different quarters simultaneously, viz: 1st, to that by which, in case of success, the ships would come out of the Polar sea to the westward, or Behring's strait; 2d, to that by which they entered on their course of discovery on the eastern side, or Davis's strait; and 3d, to an intervening portion of the arctic shore, approachable by land from the Hudson's Bay Company's settlements, on which it was supposed the crews, if obliged to abandon their ships, might be found. This last division of the expedition was placed under the command of my husband's faithful friend, the companion of his former travels, Dr. Sir John Richardson, who landed at New York in April of last year, and hastened to join his men and boats, which were already in advance towards the arctic shore. Of this portion of the expedition, I may briefly say that the absence of any intelligence from Sir John Richardson at this season, proves he has been unsuccessful in the object of his search.

The expedition intended for Behring's strait has hitherto been a complete failure. It consisted of a single ship, the "Plover," which, owing to her setting off too late, and to her bad sailing properties, did not even approach her destination last year.

The remaining and most important portion of the searching expedition consists of two ships under the command of Sir James Ross, which sailed last May for Davis's straits, but did not succeed, owing to the state of the ice, in getting into Lancaster sound until the season for operations had nearly closed. These ships are now wintering in the ice, and a storeship is about to be despatched from hence with provisions and fuel to enable

them to stay out another year; but one of these vessels is, in a great degree, withdrawn from active search by the necessity of watching at the entrance of Lancaster sound for the arrival of intelligence and instructions from England by the whalers.

I have entered into these details with the view of proving that, though the British government has not forgotten the duty it owes to the brave men whom it has sent on a perilous service, and has spent a very large sum in providing the means for their rescue, yet that, owing to various causes, the means actually in operation for this purpose are quite inadequate to meet the extreme exigence of the case; for, it must be remembered that the missing ships were victualled for three years only, and that nearly four years have now elapsed, so that the survivors of so many winters in the ice must be at the last extremity. And also, it must be borne in mind that the channels by which the ships may have attempted to force a passage to the westward, or which they may have been compelled, by adverse circumstances, to take, are very numerous and complicated, and that one or two ships cannot possibly, in the course of the next short summer, explore them all.

The board of admiralty, under a conviction of this fact, has been induced to offer a reward of £20,000 sterling to any ship or ships, of any country, or to any exploring party whatever, which shall render efficient assistance to the missing ships, or their crews, or to any portion of them. This announcement, which, even if the sum had been doubled or trebled, would have met with public approbation, comes, however, too late for our whalers, which had unfortunately sailed before it was issued, and which, even if the news should overtake them at their fishing-grounds, are totally unfitted for any prolonged adventure, having only a few months' provision on board, and no additional clothing. To the American whalers, both in the Atlantic and Pacific, I look with more hope, as competitors for the prize, being well aware of their numbers and strength, their thorough equipment, and the bold spirit of enterprise which animates their crews. But I venture to look even beyond these. I am not without hope that you will deem it not unworthy of a great and kindred nation to take up the cause of humanity which I plead, in a national spirit, and thus generously make it your own.

I must here, in gratitude, adduce the example of the imperial Russian government, which, as I am led to hope by his Excellency the Russian ambassador in London, who forwarded a memorial on the subject, will send out exploring parties this summer, from the Asiatic side of Behring's strait northward, in search of the lost vessels. It would be a noble spectacle to the world, if three great nations, possessed of the widest empires on the face of the globe, were thus to unite their efforts in the truly Christian work of saving their perishing fellow-men from destruction.

It is not for me to suggest the mode in which such benevolent efforts might best be made. I will only say, however, that if the conceptions of my own mind, to which I do not venture to give utterance, were realized, and that, in the noble competition which followed, American seamen had the good fortune to wrest from us the glory, as might be the case, of solving the problem of the unfound passage, or the still greater glory of saving our adventurous navigators from a lingering fate which the mind sickens to dwell on, though I should in either case regret that it was not my own brave countrymen in those seas whose devotion was thus re-

warded, yet should I rejoice that it was to *America* we owed our restored happiness, and should be forever bound to her by ties of affectionate gratitude.

I am not without some misgivings while I thus address you. The intense anxieties of a wife and of a daughter may have led me to press too earnestly on your notice the trial under which we are suffering, (yet not *we* only, but hundreds of others,) and to presume too much on the sympathy which we are assured is felt beyond the limits of our own land. Yet, if you deem this to be the case, you will still find, I am sure, even in that personal intensity of feeling, an excuse for the fearlessness with which I have thrown myself on your generosity, and will pardon the homage I thus pay to your own high character, and to that of the people over whom you have the high distinction to preside.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JANE FRANKLIN.

I beg to annex some explanatory papers:

Notice of the Expeditions of Discovery and Search now in the Arctic Seas.

In the year 1845, her Majesty's government sent out an expedition for the purpose of discovering a northwest passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, along the northern coast of America, or between Davis's and Behring's straits. The expedition consisted of two ships, the "Erebus" and "Terror," under the command of Sir John Franklin and Captain Crozier—the complement of officers and men in the two ships being about 138. They were victualled for three years. Their instructions were, to proceed to Baffin's bay, and, as soon as the ice permitted, to enter Lancaster sound, and proceed westward through Barrow's strait, in the latitude of about $74\frac{1}{2}$, until they reached the longitude of Cape Walker, or about 98 west. They were then to use every effort to penetrate southward and westward towards Behring's strait; and it was in this part that their greatest difficulties were apprehended. If these proved to be insurmountable, they were next directed to return to Barrow's strait, and proceed northward by the broad channel between Devon and Cornwallis islands, commonly called Wellington's strait, provided it appeared open and clear of ice. It is evident that their ability to follow either of these courses must have depended upon local circumstances of which we have no cognizance.

The discovery ships sailed from England on the 19th of May, 1845, and were last seen on the 26th of July of the same year, in latitude 74 48 north, longitude 66 13 west, fastened to an iceberg, waiting for the opening of the ice to cross into Lancaster sound.

These ships have never since been heard of; and it is for the purpose of relieving them, and at least of ascertaining their fate, that, in 1845, her Majesty's government again fitted out an expedition. It was in three divisions.

The first (in point of time) consisted of a single ship, called the "Plover," commanded by Captain Moore, which left England in the latter end of January, for the purpose of entering Behring's strait, or the westward passage. It was intended that she should arrive there in the month of July, and, having looked out for a winter harbor, should send

out her boats northward and eastward, in which directions the discovery ships, if successful, would be met with.

Unfortunately, the Plover never even approached, last year, the place of her destination; and whatever search she may yet be able to make has to be accomplished this summer. The "Herald" surveying vessel in the Pacific has orders, if possible, to supply her with additional stores.

The second division of the expedition was one of boats, to explore the coast of the Arctic sea between the Mackenzie and Coppermine rivers, or from the 135th to the 115th degree of west longitude, together with the south coast of Wollaston land—it being supposed, that if Sir John Franklin's party had been compelled to leave the ships and take to their boats, they would make for this coast.

The non-arrival by this time (April, 1849) of an express from Sir John Richardson, proves that his last summer's search was fruitless.

The third portion of the expedition of search consists of two ships, the "Enterprise" and "Investigator," under the command of Sir James Ross and Captain Bird, which sailed in May, 1848, for Lancaster sound. They were last heard of on the 28th of August last, when they were at the entrance of this sound.

Sir James Ross intended to proceed in the Enterprise, carefully examining the shores of Lancaster sound and Barrow's strait on his way, to Melville island, or to Bank's land, and thence to send out exploring parties in boats.

This second ship, the Investigator, under command of Captain Bird, appears to have received instructions from Sir James Ross to watch Lancaster sound, for the purpose both of communicating with the whaling ships from England this summer, and of looking out for stragglers from the Erebus and Terror, should any be endeavoring to reach the neighborhood of the fishing grounds.

From the late period of the season, however, at which the Enterprise and Investigator reached Lancaster sound, it is calculated that they can scarcely have had more than a fortnight for their operations during the last summer, and that a wide field for search remains open during the approaching season, for which, however, the means at present in activity are by no means adequate. It is the general belief of those officers who have served in the former arctic expeditions, that the discovery ships Erebus and Terror, whatever accident may have befallen them, cannot have wholly disappeared from those seas; and that some traces of their fate, if not some living remnant of their crews, must eventually reward the search of the diligent investigator. It is possible that they may be found in quarters the least expected; but, in the first instance, the attention of ships engaged in the search should be directed to the quarters pointed at in the admiralty instructions given to Sir John Franklin, and especially to the channels leading out of Barrow's strait to the north. The chief of these is that called Wellington strait, which it is probable Sir James Ross has not yet explored, and where, if entangled in the ice, and exhausted for want of provisions, their condition must be in the highest degree dangerous. It is also very desirable that the coasts of Boothia and North Somerset should be carefully examined, as well as the shores of the Gulf of Boothia and Regent's inlet, and the coast eastward of the Coppermine to Great Fish or Back's river; also the sounds and inlets north and west of Baffin's bay, which are supposed to communicate with Wellington's

channel to the west. Some of these parts might be explored by boats or land parties, as would all that part, also unprovided for, which lies between the Mackenzie river and Icy cape to the west.

It is the opinion of several experienced officers, that two small vessels, of the size of 150 or 180 and of 80 tons, respectively, drawing not above ten feet water, might answer the purpose of careful search in these seas, as well as larger vessels.

Mr. Clayton to Lady Franklin.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 25, 1849.

MADAM: Your letter to the President of the United States, dated April 4, 1849, has been received by him, and he has instructed me to make to you the following reply.

The appeal made in the letter with which you have honored him, is such as would strongly enlist the sympathy of the rulers and the people of any portion of the civilized world.

To the citizens of the United States, who share so largely in the emotions which agitate the public mind of your own country, the name of Sir John Franklin has been endeared by his heroic virtues and the sufferings and sacrifices which he has encountered for the benefit of mankind. The appeal of his wife and daughter, in their distress, has been borne across the waters, asking the assistance of a kindred people to save the brave men who embarked in his unfortunate expedition, and the people of the United States, who have watched with the deepest interest that hazardous enterprise, will now respond to that appeal, by the expression of their united wishes that every proper effort may be made by this government for the rescue of your husband and his companions.

To accomplish the objects you have in view, the attention of American navigators, and especially of our whalers, will be immediately invoked. All the information in the possession of this government, to enable them to aid in discovering the missing ships, relieving their crews, and restoring them to their families, shall be spread far and wide among our people; and all that the executive government of the United States, in the exercise of its constitutional powers, can effect, to meet this requisition on American enterprise, skill, and bravery, will be promptly undertaken.

The hearts of the American people will be deeply touched by your eloquent address to their Chief Magistrate, and they will join with you in an earnest prayer to Him whose spirit is on the waters, that your husband and his companions may yet be restored to their country and their friends.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, madam, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. CLAYTON.

Lady JANE FRANKLIN.

*The Lady of Sir John Franklin to the President.*BEDFORD PLACE, LONDON, *May 24, 1849.*

SIR: The letter with which you have kindly honored me, conveying the reply of the President of the United States to the appeal I ventured to address to him in behalf of the missing arctic expedition under my husband's command, has filled my heart with gratitude, and excites the liveliest feelings of admiration in all who have had an opportunity of seeing it.

Relying upon the reports in the American papers just received, I learn that the people of the United States have responded, as you foresaw they would, to the appeal made to their humane and generous feelings, and that in a manner worthy of so great and powerful a nation—indeed, with a munificence which is almost without a parallel.

I will only add, that I fully and firmly rely upon the wisdom and efficiency of the measures undertaken by the American government.

I beg you to do me the favor of conveying to the President the expression of my deep respect and gratitude, and I trust you will accept yourself my heartfelt acknowledgments for the exceedingly kind and feeling manner in which you have conveyed to me his Excellency's sentiments.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obliged friend and obedient servant,
JANE FRANKLIN.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Clayton.*WASHINGTON, *June 9, 1849.*

SIR: I have been directed by her Majesty's government to lose no time in communicating to the government of the United States the printed papers which I have the honor to enclose herewith, in case an intention on their part, referred to in a statement which appeared in the "Times" newspaper, of the 22d ultimo, of sending two ships in search of Sir John Franklin's expedition, is really entertained, it having been suggested by the Lords of the Admiralty, that, in that case, it may be useful that the United States government may be in possession of these papers, containing the views of officers competent to give an opinion as to the best measures for affording relief to the expedition, and the steps taken by her Majesty's government for that purpose.

Her Majesty's government are ere this apprized of the reality of the liberal and philanthropic intention of the President with regard to the expedition in question, which I had the honor of reporting to Viscount Palmerston, in a despatch dated the 14th ultimo. I have, therefore, the satisfaction of being enabled now to fulfil the instruction which has been addressed to me in anticipation of the correctness of the statement which had already reached her Majesty's government, by expressing to you, sir, their full appreciation of the generous and humane motives which have induced the government of the United States to send an expedition to the arctic seas.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON, &c., &c., &c.

Three thousand pounds, or a proportion thereof, according to the services rendered, offered by Lady Franklin to such of the whaling ships as shall be generously inclined to assist the search for Sir John Franklin and his gallant companions.

With the view of inducing any whaling ships which shall resort to Davis's strait and Baffin's bay to make special efforts in search of the expedition under the command of Sir John Franklin, I hereby offer the sum of three thousand pounds, (£3,000) or a proportion thereof, according to the services rendered, to such ship or ships as, departing from the usual fishing grounds, shall discover, and, if needed, afford effectual relief to the above expedition, or to any portion of it.

It is proposed that the amount of reward, according to the efforts made and services performed, shall be determined by the following gentlemen, who have kindly consented to act as referees, viz:

Rear Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, K. C. B.

Captain Sir W. Edward Parry, R. N.

Thomas Ward, esq., (Hull.)

In regard to the distribution of the sum awarded, among owners, captains, officers, and seamen, the amount to each to be adjusted in the same proportions as if similar value of produce from the fishing had been obtained.

In the event of more than one ship making special efforts to give succor to the expedition, each ship is to receive its proportion of the reward agreeably to the decision of the referees.

The attention of whalers disposed to aid in this service is particularly directed to the Gulf of Boothia, within Regent's inlet, or to any of the inlets or channels leading out of Barrow's strait, or the sea beyond, either northward or southward, as also to any sounds or inlets in the north and western sides of Baffin's bay, above the seventy-fifth degree of latitude.

Should it be clearly proved and ascertained that any whaler has made extraordinary efforts or special researches in quarters remote from the ordinary fishing grounds, for the purpose designated, though no success may have attended their endeavors, the case of such whaler, with a view to reward, will be taken into favorable consideration by the referees.

For the greater satisfaction of parties claiming reward, the owners and captains shall be authorized, if they desire it, to nominate one additional referee, who shall act and vote in all respects as the standing referees in the special case for which they may be nominated. The referees, being then increased to four, will, according to the usual order of business, choose for themselves a fifth as umpire.

£20,000 sterling (\$100,000) reward to be given by her Britannic Majesty's government to such private ship, or distributed among such private ships, or to any exploring party or parties of any country, as may, in the judgment of the board of admiralty, have rendered efficient assistance to Sir John Franklin, his ships, or their crews, and may have contributed directly to extricate them from the ice.

H. G. WARD,
Secretary to the Admiralty.

LONDON, *March 23, 1849.*

The attention of whalers, or of any other ships or parties disposed to aid in this service, is particularly directed to Smith's sound and Jones's sound, in Baffin's bay, to Regent's inlet, and the Gulf of Boothia, as well as to any of the inlets or channels leading out of Barrow's strait, particularly Wellington strait, or the sea beyond, either northward or southward.

Vessels entering through Behring's strait would necessarily direct their search north and south of Melville island.

NOTE.—Persons desirous of obtaining information relative to the missing expedition, are referred to Edmund A. Grattan, esq., her Britannic Majesty's consul, Boston, Massachusetts, or Anthony Barclay, esq., her Britannic Majesty's consul, New York.

Mr. Bancroft to Mr. Clayton.

[Extract.]

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
London, June 15, 1849.

SIR: * * * * *

The newspapers having announced that it is the President's intention to fit out two ships to go in search of Sir John Franklin, the Royal Society have passed a vote on the subject, which the Earl of Rosse, president of the Royal Society, has communicated to me by a letter; a copy of which is enclosed. Not having any official knowledge of the President's intention, I have taken care, when appealed to, to say that I knew nothing on the subject beyond what was before the world. You will observe, also, that the subject has engaged the attention of the House of Commons. I was present, and heard Sir Robert Inglis, Lord Palmerston, and Mr. D'Israeli speak upon it in the handsomest manner.

* * * * *

I am, &c.,

GEORGE BANCROFT.

HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

The Earl of Rosse to Mr. Bancroft.

13, CONNAUGHT PLACE, *June 9, 1849.*

MY DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, at the annual meeting of the Royal Society, held the 7th instant, a communication was read from Admiral Sir F. Beaufort, in which he apprized the society that the American government had nobly undertaken to send an expedition in search of Sir John Franklin; upon which a vote of thanks was moved by Sir Charles Lemon, seconded by Lord Northampton, and carried with the utmost enthusiasm, expressive of the gratitude of the Royal Society to the American government, and of their deep sense of the kind and brotherly feeling which had prompted so liberal an act of humanity.

Allow me to assure you that it is peculiarly gratifying to me to have the honor of being the humble instrument in conveying to you the thanks of the Royal Society on this occasion; and permit me to express a hope that this most generous act of the United States may, if possible, draw closer the bonds of friendship between the two kindred nations. That the United States may continue to progress with the same extraordinary rapidity in the arts of peace and civilization, and to hold the same high place in the science and literature of the world, is, I am sure, the anxious desire of the Royal Society.

I have the honor to be, my dear sir, very truly, yours,

ROSSE.

His Excellency GEORGE BANCROFT, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

Mr. Smyth to Mr. Bancroft.

3, CHEYNE WALK, CHELSEA,
 June 20, 1849.

DEAR SIR: Having notified to a general meeting of the Royal Geographical Society of London, holden on Monday, the 11th instant, that the government of the United States, with noble feeling and generous liberality, ordered an expedition, under the command of a very distinguished officer, to assist in the search, in the arctic regions, for Captain Sir John Franklin (late a vice-president of the said society) and his brave companions, it was resolved unanimously to transmit an expression of the society's gratitude to the American government, and their full sense of the benevolent impulse which prompted so admirable an act of humanity.

On so deeply interesting an occasion, I beg to be allowed to assure you of the gratification I feel on being made the instrument of this expression; and believe me, very sincerely, dear sir,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

W. H. SMYTH,

President Royal Geographical Society.

His Excellency the Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT,
&c., &c., &c.

The Lady of Sir John Franklin to the President.

SPRING GARDENS,
 London, December 11, 1849.

SIR: I had the honor of addressing myself to you, in the month of April last, in behalf of my husband, Sir John Franklin, his officers and crews, who were sent by her Majesty's government, in the spring of 1845, on a maritime expedition for the discovery of the northwest passage, and who have never since been heard of.

Their mysterious fate has excited, I believe, the deepest interest throughout the civilized world, but nowhere more so, not even in Eng-

land itself, than in the United States of America. It was under a deep conviction of this fact, and with the humble hope that an appeal to those generous sentiments would never be made altogether in vain, that I ventured to lay before you the necessities of that critical period, and to ask you to take up the cause of humanity which I pleaded, and generously make it your own.

How nobly you, sir, and the American people, responded to that appeal, how kindly and courteously that response was conveyed to me, is known wherever our common language is spoken or understood; and though difficulties, which were mainly owing to the advanced state of the season, presented themselves after your official announcement had been made known to our government, and prevented the immediate execution of your intentions, yet the generous pledge you had given was not altogether withdrawn, and hope still remained to me that, should the necessity for renewed measures continue to exist, I might look again across the waters for the needed succor.

A period has now, alas! arrived, when our dearest hopes as to the safe return of the discovery ships this autumn are finally crushed by the unexpected, though forced return of Sir James Ross, without any tidings of them, and also by the close of the arctic season. And not only have no tidings been brought of their safety or of their fate, but even the very traces of their course have yet to be discovered; for such was the concurrence of unfortunate and unusual circumstances attending the efforts of the brave and able officer alluded to, that he was not able to reach those points where indications of the course of the discovery ships would most probably be found. And thus, at the close of a second season since the departure of the recent expedition of search, we remain in nearly the same state of ignorance respecting the missing expedition as at the moment of its starting from our shores. And in the mean time our brave countrymen, whether clinging still to their ships or dispersed in various directions, have entered upon a fifth winter in those dark and dreary solitudes, with exhausted means of sustenance, while yet their expected succor comes not!

It is in the time, then, of their greatest peril, in the day of their extremest need, that I venture, encouraged by your former kindness, to look to you again for some active efforts which may come in aid of those of my own country, and add to the means of search. Her Majesty's ministers have already resolved on sending an expedition to Behring's strait, and doubtless have other necessary measures in contemplation, supported as they are, in every means that can be devised for this humane purpose, by the sympathies of the nation and by the generous solicitude which our Queen is known to feel in the fate of her brave people imperilled in their country's service. But, whatever be the measures contemplated by the admiralty, they cannot be such as will leave no room or necessity for more, since it is only by the multiplication of means, and those vigorous and instant ones, that we can hope, at this last stage, and in this last hour, perhaps, of the lost navigators' existence, to snatch them from a dreary grave. And surely, till the shores and seas of those frozen regions have been swept in all directions, or until some memorial be found to attest their fate, neither England, who sent them out, nor even America, on whose shores they have been launched in a cause which has interested the world for centuries, will deem the question at rest.

May it please God so to move the hearts and wills of a great and kindred people, and of their chosen Chief Magistrate, that they may join heart and hand in the generous enterprise! The respect and admiration of the world, which watches with growing interest every movement of your great republic, will follow the chivalric and humane endeavor, and the blessing of them who were ready to perish shall come upon you!

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your grateful and obedient servant,

JANE FRANKLIN.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Lady of Sir John Franklin to Mr. Clayton.

SPRING GARDENS,
London, December 12, 1849.

SIR: I beg to transmit, through you, to the President of the United States, the accompanying letter, trusting to that same kindness on his part of which you have already been the feeling and eloquent exponent, that it will be received with an indulgence similar to that which I met with before.

Sir John Richardson informs me that the interest felt in the United States for the unfortunate missing expedition under my husband's command is as lively and deep as ever; and in this feeling, and in the benevolent disposition of the President, I place my humble confidence.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obliged and obedient,

JANE FRANKLIN.

