

traces of Franklin on the shores of that channel, and may have ascertained thereby, either that it is desirable to pursue the search farther in that direction, or that there is no encouragement to do so. In the first case fresh instructions and a supply of provisions might enable him to follow up the research that has appeared to him most advisable on the spot: in the second case, and supposing that there should appear to be no probability that Franklin has taken that direction, they might authorize and enable him to examine the sounds at the head of Baffin's Bay before his return to England. It was Franklin's declared intention, if he failed in one channel, to attempt another, and not to desist, if possible, till he had tried all; the search consequently of the Sounds referred to, even if unsuccessful, in the absence of more promising traces elsewhere, would be satisfactory.

Opinion of Colonel
Sabine, R. A.

I am interrupted and unable to write more, but I cannot but think that it is very desirable that those who take a deep interest in the fate of Franklin and his companions, and who have local knowledge, should meet together and consult as to whether any and what steps should be recommended to Her Majesty's Government; and I can only say that for my part I am ready to attend at any moment, if my presence could be of any use.

(signed) *Edward Sabine.*

— No. 5. —

REMARKS of Captain Sir *Edward Belcher* on the Probabilities of communicating with Sir *James Ross*, by the Whale Ships or otherwise, &c.

Opinion of Captain
Sir Edward Bel-
cher.

24, Thurloe-square, 8 January 1849.

IN reply to your questions relating to the paragraph in the instructions to Sir J. C. Ross, directing him to send his steam launch, or possibly the "Investigator," to meet the whale ships this spring;—

It is necessary to look narrowly to the possibilities attending any such attempt, and the periods at which they can be made, before we can arrive at any conclusion upon which further instructions can be framed.

For this purpose it will be necessary to refer to the previous voyages of Sir E. Parry in those regions, whence I collect the following important data. In the first voyage, 1819, I find that the temperatures of July, August, September, and October are as follows, viz.:

July	-	-	-	-	-	26 min.	to	46 min.
August	-	-	-	-	-	28	"	42 "
Up to 24 September	-	-	-	-	-	9	"	37 "
" 15 October	-	-	-	-	-	8.5	"	17.5 "

Upon the entry into Lancaster Sound on the 6th of August, until 31st same month, with a comparatively clear sea, the ships were merely able to reach Melville Island.

Indeed on the 6th they were barred; and not until the 20th did they find this barrier removed; they had, therefore, only 11 days to navigate the distance in question. Therefore, it is to be assumed on the spring of 1819, that no boat or vessel could have communicated with the "Investigator's" proposed situation, from Melville Island, before the 21st August. On the ensuing summer the ice is not noticed "moving" until the 30th June; on the 26th July the vessels move out of winter quarters, and start on the 1st of August.

With powerful ships, adapted to resist the ice, they reach the mouth of Lancaster Sound on the 31st, and on the 6th September, all their exertions having been put forth, they reach Agnes' Monument; meeting on the preceding day the "Lee," of Hull, and other whalers in that region.

It is, therefore, clear to my comprehension (unless trusting to the in-shore depths, in which the larger bergs cannot be driven), that the steam launch, with the thermometer possibly at — 10, will not be risked, and that the "Enterprise" herself will have to seek the "Investigator," and send her with the despatches.

To effect this will compel the "Enterprise," according to the data supplied by Parry's voyage, to strain every nerve merely to reach and despatch the "Investigator," whose berth she must occupy for that winter. Circumstances more favourable than those experienced by Sir E. Parry may possibly help him, but these we have no right to anticipate. We will now pass to the instructions in force, and all we can now do is to make our calculations upon when the effort