

Belfast, a young and rising medical man, went also to seek honour where so many of his gallant countrymen had already won it; and Petersen, the Dane, who had spent half his life within the Arctic zone, quitted Copenhagen at an hour's notice to aid Captain McClintock as Esquimaux interpreter.

The history of what these brave men did and endured has been told in a volume which I recommend you to read.* All their discoveries tended to confirm the truth of what Dr Rae had learnt from the Esquimaux in 1854, and to place beyond doubt the fact that no survivors remained of the officers and crews of the *Erebus* and *Terror*.

One most precious and all-important record McClintock discovered, thank God, in a cairn on Cape Herschel, at the west coast of King William's Land. A paper,† deposited there, tells how the *Erebus* and *Terror* passed the winter of 1845-6 at Beechey Island, "having ascended Wellington Channel to latitude 77°, and returned by the west side of Cornwallis Island." This first entry is signed "Sir John Franklin, commanding the expedition. *All well.*"

A subsequent entry by Captain Fitzjames tells how Sir John Franklin died on the 11th

* NOTE.—"A Narrative of the Discovery of the Fate of Sir John Franklin and his Companions," or "The Voyage of the 'Fox' in the Arctic Seas." By Captain McClintock, R.N., LL.D.

† NOTE.—The fac-simile of this sad but precious relic is bound up with Captain McClintock's work.