

of land, or other distinctive locality, to deposit exact notices of your condition and intended proceedings; and you are to give positive orders that these notices or records are to be deposited 10 feet true north of the cairn or staff, and likewise beneath or in the cairn itself.

8. With regard to the expedition to be despatched towards Melville Island, it is scarcely to be contemplated that, under the most favourable circumstances, more could be done in the first season than to reach that point; and the officer in charge of that service will of course have to take into account the having to winter in that quarter.

9. His earliest attention in that case, in the ensuing spring, will be,—1st. The depositing such supplies at Melville Island as he can spare, or endeavouring to convey them thither by sledges, if he should not reach the island with his ships; and 2d. The detaching travelling parties in a westerly direction for the combined purpose of a search for traces of Sir John Franklin, and of depositing notices in conspicuous situations as to where the supplies are left, but being at the same time strictly enjoined to return to their ships before the usual period of the breaking up of the ice, in order that such ships may return to their rendezvous at Beechy Island, or otherwise prepare for quitting Lancaster Sound to return to England, according as the supplies on board of his ships, and the length of time consumed in the above service, shall require.

10. And here, we think it necessary more particularly to call your attention to the instructions to be given by you to the officer charged with this branch of the expedition; for whilst there is a possibility of your calculating on an early return of such officer from Melville Island, in the summer of 1853, and of his being able to afford you support in any particular direction, it is on the other hand not improbable, that from a prolonged detention to the westward, it may be his bounden duty not to hazard a further stay in those seas, but to make the best of his way home; in which case he must endeavour to communicate with the rendezvous at Beechy Island, before finally quitting Barrow's Strait, in order to obtain information of the other ships, and to deposit records of his proceedings.

11. He should, therefore, be made to understand the nature of the responsibility that devolves upon him, both as to the execution of his orders, in the first instance, and determining the point at which the power of compliance with those orders ceases.

12. It is, of course, possible that seasons such as were experienced by the expedition in 1850-51 may again occur to prevent a passage by ships up Wellington Channel, or to the west of Griffith Island, and, under such circumstances, it will be for you to consider how far it might serve any useful purpose to undertake an examination by travelling parties from Baring Bay, or Prince Alfred Bay, in the direction of Jones's Sound, in addition to those which it will be your duty to send out to the north and north-west, for traces of Sir John Franklin, in the direction of Queen's Channel.

13. Our instructions, therefore, are without reference to the possible circumstance of records still being found at Beechy Island, or elsewhere, (and for which it will be your duty to search) at a certain distance from the respective cairns, where it has been stated it was Sir John Franklin's custom to deposit them;* and if by such records it should prove that Sir John Franklin proceeded to the eastward out of Lancaster Sound, after he wintered at Beechy Island in 1845-46, you will still continue to push forward two of your ships towards Melville Island, as already directed by us, and with the other two you are to act as circumstances may render necessary, depending on the information which those records may convey; and adverting to the report of two ships having been seen on the ice in the North Atlantic, in the spring of 1851, we think it expedient to draw your attention to this subject, that you may adopt such steps on your way from Baffin Bay, with reference to search and inquiry on the shores of Davis Straits, as you may consider most advisable under the circumstances above stated, and the information the records may convey.

14. You

* The piece of tin or copper, said, by Adam Beck, to have been dropped from a staff, should also be looked for. See Evidence before Arctic Committee.