

6 CORRESPONDENCE, &c. RESPECTING ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

I.

Expedition to Lancaster Sound and Barrow's Straits.

— No. 8. —

British Vice-Consulate, Copenhagen,
23 September 1848.

My Lords,

At the same time that I received the three packages of letters from the ships "Enterprise" and "Investigator" (forwarded to the Foreign Office by last post), I also received a letter from Dr. Rink, dated Godhavn in North Greenland, 21st ultimo, which want of time prevented me from translating, but which I now take the earliest opportunity of transmitting enclosed, accompanied by a translation for the information of your Lordships.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Mac Caul,*
British Vice-Consul.

The Lords Commissioners of the
Admiralty, London.

Enclosure in No. 8.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Dr. *Rink* to the British Consulate at *Copenhagen*.

Godhavn in North Greenland, 21 August 1848.

WHILE on a scientific journey in Greenland, I had the good fortune, in the northernmost colony of Upernavik, to fall in with the English expedition sent, under the command of Captain James Clarke Ross, in search of Captain John Franklin; and I now take the liberty to send herewith three packages with letters which on this occasion were delivered to me. I reached Upernavik in the afternoon of the 13th July, and saw the two ships "Enterprise" and "Investigator" lying moored to an ice-field north of the island; whereupon I immediately repaired on board to visit Captain Ross. After having spent half-an-hour in conversation with him and the commanding officer of the other ship, I left them about seven o'clock in the evening, the wind having then become easterly, and Captain Ross having given orders for getting under sail. They both proceeded along the coast to the northward, and next day were out of sight. Everything appeared to be well on board up to the time that they left us. On the following Saturday and Sunday, the 16th and 17th July, we had a severe storm from the southwest, which has certainly broken up the ice which in the early part of July still lay 10 (Danish) miles to the north of Upernavik, and has thereby removed the last hindrance to the expedition proceeding farther to the northward. As this will most likely be one of the latest accounts received from this important expedition before its return to Europe, I therefore thought that the present communication might be of interest to the consulate.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. Rink,*
Doctor Phil.

— No. 9. —

Sir,

Ness, Stromness, 23 October 1848.

I TAKE the liberty of communicating the following intelligence of the Arctic Expedition under Sir J. C. Ross, handed to me by Mr. Richard Hill, of the Hull whaler "Lord Gambier," arrived at this port on the 21st instant:—

"On the 21st July communicated with Her Majesty's expedition under Captains Sir J. C. Ross and Bird, lying at Berg, near the Devil's Thumb, in latitude 74 deg. 20 min.; found all well; remained in company till the 25th, when a breeze sprung up from the south west, with thick fog; did not see the ships again; plied to the southward, and crossed to the west land of Davis' Straits on the 3d August; found little interruption from ice, and made Agnes' Monument on the morning of the 4th August. Captain Hill has no doubt the expedition would cross to Lancaster Sound about the first week in August."

This will, in all probability, be the latest intelligence of the Arctic Expedition this season, which you will oblige by communicating to my Lords Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Robinson,* Trinity Agent.

The Right Honourable
Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.