

Careful of order we ask, was the party seen in '50 by the Esquimaux the last survivors of the missing crews? If so, why did they not retreat to Fury Beach, instead of pushing in a starving condition towards the hunting grounds and the settlements? What induced them to face death but the view of getting communication and sending relief to those left behind with the ships? In their journey south, through Peel Sound, Fury Beach lay within easy reach, still it was forsaken. A bare existence awaited them at that place, and a death march presented itself in the route through Peel Sound; had they entertained any hope of finding intelligence of ships after reaching Cape Walker, it would concentrate on Fury Beach, as it was the only place where provisions could be found, which circumstance would render it a position likely to be visited by searching parties. The absence of the retreating party from it exhibits the haste to get communication, while it indicates the absence of all hopes of receiving succour from ships after it had been to Cape Walker. Many will speak of a second party attempting a retreat from the ships, but the objections to that view is but one route being open for retreat, and the first party having consumed the stores left at the junction of Jones' Sound with Wellington Channel. When they were gone Franklin knew that without a depot in the line of retreat, the attempt would be too hazardous, which, with the expect-