

## ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

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RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 17 March 1854;—for,

“COPY of LETTER addressed by Lady *Franklin* to the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of the ADMIRALTY, dated the 24th day of February 1854, in reference to their Lordships' Announcement in the London Gazette of the 20th day of January 1854, respecting the Officers and Crews of Her Majesty's Ships 'Erebus' and 'Terror;' and of a Copy of such Notice.”

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NOTICE respecting the Officers and Crews of Her Majesty's Ships “Erebus” and “Terror.”

Admiralty, 19 January 1854.

NOTICE is hereby given, that if intelligence be not received, before the 31st March next, of the officers and crews of Her Majesty's Ships “Erebus” and “Terror” being alive, the names of the officers will be removed from the Navy List, and they and the crews of those ships will be considered as having died in Her Majesty's service. The pay and wages of the officers and crews of those ships will cease on the 31st day of March next; and all persons legally entitled, and qualifying themselves to claim the pay and wages then due, will be paid the same on application to the Accountant-general of Her Majesty's Navy.

Security will be required in certain cases, for which special provision will be made.

By command of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

*W. A. B. Hamilton,*  
Secretary.

The above Notice was inserted in the “London Gazette,” of Friday, 20 January 1854.

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LETTER from Lady *Franklin* to the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

4, Spring Gardens, 24 February 1854.

IN a letter which I had the honour to address to the First Lord of the Admiralty on the 20th of January, and which at my request he kindly forwarded to the Board, I expressed in language of deep emotion the feelings of pain and wonder to which your summary and unexpected sentence on my husband, Rear-Admiral Sir John Franklin, and the officers and crews of the “Erebus” and “Terror,” had given rise.

You have been pleased to explain to me, in terms of which I cannot but acknowledge the courtesy, that it is for the convenience of winding up the accounts of the financial year, which closes on the 31st of March, that you have fixed upon that moment for consigning 135 seamen in Her Majesty's service simultaneously to the grave, unmindful of the discordant fact that Her Majesty's ships on the other side of the Atlantic are now, and will be on 31st of March next, preparing to discover the abodes of these very men, considered as living beings, yet to be rescued.

My Lords, I make no vain complaints of the manner in which your Lordships' intentions have been communicated to the public, distressing as it is to the feelings of the living, and little respectful as it has the semblance of being to the memory of those who, if they have “died in Her Majesty's service,”