

TPL 3251

ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 4 May 1852;—for,

A RETURN “of the SAILING ORDERS given to Sir *Edward Belcher*,
relating to the ARCTIC EXPEDITION.”

Admiralty, }
6 May 1852. }

J. H. HAY,
Chief Clerk.

By the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c. &c.

1. HAVING appointed you to the command of the expedition (to consist of the ships named in the margin *,) preparing for the further search for Sir John Franklin, you are, whenever such ships shall be in all respects ready, to put to sea, and proceeding down channel, or north about, make the best of your way to Barrow Strait, calling at Disco, (if in your way,) for such replenishments as the place affords, and for a supply of dogs for sledging purposes.

* Assistance.
Resolute.
Pioneer.
Intrepid.
North Star.

2. We have entrusted you with this command, in the full persuasion of your thorough acquaintance with its obligations, and of your judgment and ability to meet them.

3. We do not therefore consider it necessary to encumber you with minute instructions for your guidance at each step of your proceedings; but furnishing you with papers which point out the views of the Admiralty, as successive expeditions have been despatched from this country, and those also relative to the difficulties occurring to oppose those views, we leave it to you to decide, as the case shall present itself.

4. We deem it right, however, that a certain course of proceedings should be pointed out to you; and adopting the recommendation of the Committee appointed in October 1851, to inquire and report upon a previous expedition, the plan of future operations there proposed is to be considered as the basis of your proceedings. By that plan, Beechy Island is the point indicated as the basis of your operations, and you are to consider it as the grand rendezvous to which you are to push forward, there to establish the “North Star” as a general depôt.

5. Arrived at this point, two great objects will engage your attention:

1st. The endeavouring to pass up Wellington Channel with one sailing vessel and one steamer.

2d. The advance of a similar force towards Melville Island.

6. The object of the first of these expeditions will be, the endeavour to recover those traces of Sir John Franklin which ceased at Cape Bowden, to the north of Beechy Island; and to follow up such traces, if they should be found. The object of the other expedition will be, to deposit, if possible, at Winter Harbour, Melville Island, or failing that, at Byam Martin Island, a supply of provisions, fuel, and clothing for any parties that might reach such positions from Captain Collinson’s, or Commander McClure’s ships.

7. As regards the first named expedition, and the possible contingency of coming upon Sir John Franklin’s track; we cannot too strongly impress upon you the necessity of your establishing along your line of route, caches of provisions sufficient to supply your crews, and those of the missing ships, should any accident happen to your own vessels, and render it necessary for you to return without them to the general rendezvous at Beechy Island; and you will be most careful along the line of such route, as well as in every other direction you may have to take, to avail yourself of every remarkable promontory, point