

No. 22.

SECRETARY of ADMIRALTY to Sir L. McCLINTOCK.

SIR,

Admiralty, 28th November 1874.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that the reports respecting the "Bloodhound" are such that my Lords are desirous that you should inspect her as to her fitness for the Arctic Expedition, and I am to signify their directions to you to proceed to Greenock for the purpose, taking with you the officers who previously accompanied you to the north.

Before, however, you proceed to Greenock, my Lords request that you and the officers will call at the Admiralty on Monday next, the 30th instant, when further instructions will be given you, and it will then be settled whether it will be necessary for an officer from the Controller's Department to assist you in valuing the vessel, as the owners are willing to sell her to the Admiralty at a price to be fixed by you and Messrs. Steele & Co.

Rear-Admiral Sir F. L. McClintock, F.R.S.,  
&c., &c.,  
H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 23.

SECRETARY of ADMIRALTY to Sir L. McCLINTOCK.

SIR,

Admiralty, 1st December 1874.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you, in reply to your telegram of this day respecting the "Bloodhound," that they are prepared to purchase the ship at the valuation to be made by you and Messrs. Steele and Company, in accordance with the letter of Messrs. Baine and Johnston.

My Lords are desirous that you will avail yourself of the assistance of Mr. Dodd and Messrs. Froyne and Newman in coming to a conclusion with regard to the value of the vessel, and that you will then put yourself in communication with Messrs. Steele, and agree with them upon the price to be paid.

Rear-Admiral Sir Leopold McClintock, F.R.S.,  
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 24.

Sir L. McCLINTOCK to SECRETARY of ADMIRALTY.

Arctic Committee Room, Admiralty,  
3rd December 1874.

SIR,

IN obedience to the directions contained in their Lordships' letters of 28th ultimo and 1st instant, I have the honour to report, for their information, that I have inspected the screw steamer "Bloodhound" at Greenock, and have fully availed myself of the professional assistance of Messrs. Dodd, Froyne, and Newman in arriving at a conclusion as to her value.

This we estimate at 15,620*l*.

I then had a meeting with Mr. Steele, of the firm of Steele and Company, who acted as valuator on the part of the owners (Baine and Johnston) of the "Bloodhound."

This gentleman valued her at 20,000*l*. But on describing the points of difference between the two estimates, and on a further reference to the owners, I was informed by Mr. Steele that Messrs. Baine and Johnston were willing to part with her for 18,000*l*. This sum is to cover the expense of sending back the crews to their homes in Newfoundland, and in remunerating them for the loss of their season's seal fishing.

If it is decided by the Controller's Department that her engines are not too extravagant in their consumption of fuel for the service required of her, and if her boilers are put into perfect repair by Messrs. Baine and Johnston, I recommend the purchase of this vessel at the sum asked for her, as her hull is perfectly sound, and she appears in other respects to be well suited for an Arctic expedition.

The repairs of her boilers are in progress and will be completed in five or six days, when she will be ready to proceed to a Government dockyard.