

M'Clure states that he had received clear instructions from Captain Collinson to proceed to Cape Lisburne to meet the latter at that rendezvous; but he fears that before he shall have been able to reach the cape, Collinson will have rounded it and gone on. In that case he would consider the "Investigator" a detached and independent part of the expedition, and would act accordingly. "After passing Cape Lisburne," he writes, "it is my intention to keep in the open water, which, from the different reports that I have read, appears, about this season of the year, to make between the American coast and the main pack as far to the eastward as the 130th meridian, unless a favourable opening should earlier appear in the ice, which would lead me to infer that I might push more directly for *Banks Land*, which I think it is of the utmost importance to thoroughly examine. In the event of thus far succeeding, and the season continuing favourable for further operations, it would be my anxious desire to get to the northward of Melville Island, and resume our search along its shores and the islands adjacent, as long as the navigation can be carried on, and then secure for the winter in the most eligible position which offers. . . . In the event of this being our last communication, I would request you to assure their Lordships that no apprehension whatever need be entertained of our safety *until the autumn of 1854*, as we have on board three years of all species of provisions, commencing from the 1st September proximo, which, without much deprivation, may be made to extend to a period of four years." Having committed this bold missive into the hands of the captain of the "Plover," M'Clure felt himself free to act only on his own independent judgment, and signalling farewell to Captain Moore, he shaped his course for Cape Lisburne and the icy seas.

On the 31st July, when at a distance of about twenty miles from the cape, the "Investigators" observed a sail standing down towards them from the north-west. Could it be Captain Collinson in the "Enterprise?" The question was soon decided, as the stranger unfurled the gay ensign of St George, and at the same time ran up a number to the masthead declaring her to be the "Herald," Captain Kellett. The vessels soon closed, and as the "Herald" courteously rounded behind the discovery ship, she manned her rigging and welcomed the "Investigators" to the Polar Sea with three hearty cheers, and one cheer more. The vessels then proceeded in company toward Cape Lisburne. "We now learned with regret," writes Armstrong, "that nothing had been seen of our consort (the 'Enterprise'), and we having now arrived at the rendezvous, there could exist no doubt that she was still far behind us. . . . We received no orders from our senior officer (Captain Collinson) as to our course of action in the event of reaching the rendezvous before him; the possibility of such a contingency occurring had evidently never been entertained for one moment. We were conse-