

SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

Dorothea on a voyage to Spitzbergen, of which Captain Beechey has published an interesting account. On his return, in the autumn of the same year, he was invested with the command of an overland expedition from Hudson's Bay to the northern shores of America, for the purpose of examining the coasts of the Polar Sea to the eastward of the Coppermine River, and fixing the latitude and longitude of the mouth of that stream, which had been traced to the ocean in the previous century by Hearne, but regarding the accuracy of whose report considerable doubt had been expressed. Franklin, in this voyage, established beyond doubt the existence of an extensive sea, washing the northern shores of America, which he traced in a common Indian canoe, such as is used by the *voyageurs* of Hudson's Bay, for 140 miles to the east of the Coppermine. The return of the party from the sea was marked by much hardship and suffering; and it was only after the loss of more than half his crew, under the combined effect of cold, hunger, and exhaustion, that Franklin was able to reach York Fort on Hudson's Bay, after an absence of three years; during which he had travelled by land and water a distance of 5550 miles. The details of this tragical journey are well known from Franklin's own narrative of the expedition, published shortly after his return to England. In 1825, he undertook a second expedition over the same country, having more especially for its object a co-operation with Captain Parry and Captain Beechey, in the task of ascertaining from opposite quarters, by Lancaster Sound and Behring's Strait, the existence of a north-west passage. During this journey, the details of which will be found in Franklin's *Narrative of a Second Expedition to the Shores of the Polar Sea, in 1825-7*, the coast of North America, from the mouth of the Coppermine River to within 160 miles of Point Barrow, comprising a distance of upwards of 1200 miles, was accurately surveyed, and added to our maps. For this important contribution to geographical science, the French Geographical Society awarded Franklin their annual gold medal, valued at 1200 francs. Shortly after his return to England from this journey, he received the honour of knighthood, and, in July 1830, had the degree of D.C.L. conferred upon him by the university of Oxford. After serving some years on the Mediterranean station, and taking an active part in the war of liberation in Greece, for his services in which he was rewarded with the cross of the Redeemer of Greece, Sir John returned to England, and was created a K.C.H. on the 25th of January 1836. He was shortly after appointed governor of Van Diemen's Land, an office he continued to hold till within a short period of his leaving England on his last ill-fated expedition.