

Were you aware of a reward being offered by the Government for the discovery of Sir John Franklin's expedition?

No; I think it was not known to any one on board.

Was any one in the ship aware of such reward?

Perhaps the master might; but I doubt whether the men were aware of such reward, or that they knew of any such expedition as Franklin's.

Are you aware whether the master reported the circumstance on his arrival at Québec?

He told me he did.

Were any more bergs in sight?

We could see them in all directions; we passed a great many icebergs on the previous day.

What time was it when Mr. Lynch first expressed his opinion that they might be Franklin's ships?

When the ships were nearly out of sight astern.

Did you or Mr. Lynch go down to the master after such opinion was expressed?

Mr. Lynch went down to Mr. Coward, but I do not know what transpired between them.

Were you and Mr. Lynch on friendly terms?

Quite so; like brothers.

May I ask whether there was a perfect understanding between you and the master in the management of the ship on all occasions?

We had perfect confidence in each other; we had been together four years in the "Renovation." His orders were very strict, never to alter the ship's course without his permission.

Why did you not remonstrate with Mr. Coward, with a view to obtain his sanction to close the vessels?

At the time we regarded them as wrecks; when I called him I thought he would have given orders to go down and look at them; but I do not know what he said to Mr. Lynch. Mr. Coward never came on deck to look at the vessels. At the time I said to Mr. Lynch, I would like to go aboard, and rummage the cabins.

When you state that there were no boats, was it because you were satisfied there were none?

Cannot state whether there were any on board at the time; the distance was too great for me to determine these particulars, but saw none hoisted up to davits.

Could you distinguish whether the ships had any iron plates about the bows?

No; too far off.

Will you tell me your decided opinion, that if these vessels had been all "atanto," what rig they could be?

Did not take that particular notice; it was too far to say decidedly whether they may have been ships or barques; I merely took a bird's-eye view of them; the one with her yards aloft might be either a ship or barque.

Would you have incurred any risk to the safety of your ship had you run down to close the ice?

Had I been master of the ship I would have gone down and hove-to, and endeavoured to have gone on board the ships.

(signed) *Robert Simpson,*  
Late Mate of the "Renovation."

Limerick, 16 April 1852.

Witness the foregoing answers have been read and acknowledged by Mr. Robert Simpson, in our presence, to be correct.

*Erasmus Ommanney, Captain, R.N.*  
*William Ellis, Commander, R.N.*  
*John Jervis Palmer, Commander, R.N.*  
*W. Caldwell, County Inspector Constabulary, Limerick.*