

Perhaps the most notable event which has attracted public attention to the Arctic regions, was the expedition of, and subsequent searches for, Sir John Franklin and his brave companions. He sailed from England in the summer of 1845, with the two ships, *Erebus* and *Terror*, but as months and years passed on, without word or sign from the explorers, the desire to go in search of them became widespread.

All sorts of wild conjectures were afloat as to the probable existence and whereabouts of the absent ones, and schemes, some fantastic enough, were suggested for their recovery. Strange dreams and visions, pointing to certain spots in the Arctic circle, filled everybody's mind with eager curiosity; one of the most remarkable being that of Parker Snow, who, in 1850, stated that, at three o'clock in the morning of the 7th of January, he saw, on the wall of his room, a picture representing a region of ice at the end of King William's Land and the estuary of Great Fish River, with the two deserted ships embedded in the ice, and along the shore the lifeless bodies of several men. At that time nothing whatever had been heard of the ill-fated expedition, but when Captain M'Clintock, nine years afterwards, reached this spot, so strangely indicated, it was to find the relics of the expedition. Sir John Franklin, it was found, died on the 11th of June, 1847, and the ships were abandoned on the 22nd of April, 1848, the survivors, 105 in number, moving southward. When M'Clintock returned with the sad tidings of the loss of the expedition, it was by no means convincing to all that the need for further search had been closed. Many believed that the missing men had gone farther north and became like