

maux, and should remain for ten years without being seen by them, is an idea far too absurd to be true. To allay further doubt upon this subject, one question is necessary. When the Esquimaux first saw the white men on the coast of King William's Land, and hearing they had left their ships in the ice, seeing at the same time the direction from which they were advancing, would they not have set off in quest of them? We are entitled to believe that those tribes have traversed Peel Sound and Victoria Strait in every direction for the missing ships, but their search being unsuccessful, hence the absence of traces of them. That they were in that position was a question to be discussed in '47 and '48, but not afterwards, as the great search that followed those seasons, the long lapse of time and the total absence of tidings, were surely sufficient to convince the world of its bad judgment. Had any consideration been given to those truths, the public would not have remained long in a state of ignorance concerning the mystery. The warning voice of caution called aloud in the results of Mr. Anderson's voyage, still, like Jehu, it drove on, and became at length fixed on the one hundred and fifteen unexplored miles in Peel Sound. The great catastrophe, with a complete history of the discoveries, adventures, and misfortunes of those one hundred and thirty-five men, led by able officers, must and will be found in the narrow confines of that distance.