

Owing to the long absence of Capt. John Ross of the *Victory*, in the northern seas, a relief and exploring expedition was organized under the command of Capt. Back, who intended reaching the north coast of America by descending the Great Fish River. This was supposed to flow in a north east direction, and reach the sea at no great distance from the longitude in which Parry's ship, "*Fury*," had been abandoned in 1824. It was known that Ross would endeavour to reach this spot and take some of the store of provisions piled up on the beach. Capt. Back, therefore, in 1833 reached Slave Lake, and advanced by Artillery and Clinton Golden Lakes to Aylmer Lake, and made an examination of the head waters of the Fish River. He then returned to the wooded country to winter. At the eastern end of Slave Lake he built his winter quarters, and called the house Fort Reliance.

On March 26th intelligence reached him of the return of Ross, so that the expedition now was for exploration only.

Early in the spring a start was made, and during the summer he successfully descended the river to the sea, and by fall had returned to his former winter quarters, where he passed the winter of 1834-5, and then returned to England.

One result of the explorations of Dr. Ross on the shores of the Gulf of Boothia in 1853-4, was the obtaining of relics of the Franklin expedition from the Esquimaux, with the information that some at least of the party had reached the mainland, near the mouth of the Fish River, though they probably all perished in that vicinity. England at that time was engaged in the war in the Crimea, and could not at once fit out a relief expedition, but asked the Hudson Bay Co. to undertake and fit out an expedition to descend the Fish River, and search the coast in the vicinity of its mouth. This expedition was under the direction of Messrs. Anderson and Stuart, officers of the Company, who, in 1855, made the descent of the river, but were only partly successful in finding traces of the party, and returned to Fort Resolution the same season.

The next traveller giving any account of this district is Mr. Pike, as already noticed above.

During the season of 1889 Mr. Pike made a very interesting trip northward, to a large lake lying to the westward of Aylmer Lake, to