

Captain Ross in the month of October subsequent to our departure; and this happy intelligence having been forwarded through the Indian country with much praiseworthy zeal, fortunately reached our winter-quarters before any final arrangements were made for visiting the coast.

Our whole attention was consequently directed towards the second object of the expedition—that of geographical discovery; and from an abstract of Captain Ross's proceedings inclosed to us, the completion of the survey of the coast-line from Point Turnagain eastward appeared to be comparatively easy; but this proved not to be correct, nothing important to that end having been effected.

Nevertheless, as the various obstacles occasioning this failure were of a surmountable character; I was led, while yet tented on the shores of the Polar Sea, to form the project of returning to resume the research at the point where Captain Back had terminated his labours, after he had avowed his intention to abandon the project as far as a land expedition was concerned.