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ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

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RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 11 June 1849;—for,

“COPY of any COMMUNICATION from Her Majesty’s Consul at *Washington* to Her Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to Measures adopted by the Government of the United States, on the subject of the Expedition sent forth by this Country, under Command of Sir *John Franklin*, to the ARCTIC SEAS.”

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 13 June 1849.*

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CORRESPONDENCE with Her Majesty’s Chargé d’Affaires at *Washington*, respecting the Intention of the Government of the United States to send Two Ships of War in Search of Sir *John Franklin*’s EXPEDITION to the ARCTIC SEAS.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Palmerston* to Mr. *Crampton*, Her Majesty’s Chargé d’Affaires at *Washington*.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 25 May 1849.

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a note which has been addressed to this office by direction of Sir Francis Baring, the first Lord of the Admiralty, referring to a statement which appeared in the “*Times*” of the 22d instant, respecting the alleged intention of the United States Government to send two ships in search of Sir John Franklin’s Expedition, and suggesting that, if this intention is entertained by the Government of the United States, it may be useful that they should be in possession of the printed papers sent herewith.

I have accordingly to desire that you will ascertain whether the above-mentioned statement is correct, and if it is so, you will lose no time in communicating the accompanying documents to the Secretary of State of the United States; and you will say, that Her Majesty’s Government fully appreciate the generous and humane motives which have induced the Government of the United States to send these ships to the Arctic Seas.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Palmerston*.

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Captain *Hamilton* to Lord *Eddisbury*.

CAPTAIN *Hamilton* presents his compliments to Lord *Eddisbury*, and, with reference to an article under the head of “*Canada News*” in the “*Times*” newspaper of the 22d instant, in which it is stated to be “the intention of the Government of the United States to send two ships in search of Sir John Franklin’s Expedition, one to go round east by Labrador and Davis’s Straits, the other west by Bhering’s Straits,” writes by desire of Sir Francis Baring, suggesting for Lord *Palmerston*’s consideration the propriety of sending, for the use of the United States Government, the accompanying printed papers, containing the views of officers competent to give an opinion as to the best measures for affording relief to the expedition, and the steps taken by Her Majesty’s Government for that purpose.

Sir Francis Baring has no means of judging as to the truth of the report given in the “*Times*,” and as it is stated to have come by telegraph by *Montreal*, some little interval must elapse before it can be substantiated; but, aware of the importance of time in such a service, and assuming the possibility of such a generous and humane measure on the part of the United States Government, Sir Francis Baring supposes that with such documents before them, for comparison with their own views, that Government might be materially aided in drawing up instructions for their officers, and in arranging such plans as would render any auxiliary expedition infinitely more serviceable.

Admiralty, 25 May 1849.