

other pieces of wood belonging to a boat were in the possession of the natives.

Those who refused to be satisfied with Dr. Rae's account were still less so with M. Anderson's. They said, that in the climate of the Arctic regions, the intense cold preserves exposed articles in a wonderful manner, so that it is hardly possible to judge, on viewing a deserted Esquimaux settlement, how long it may be since it was the abode of human beings—the minutest fish bones being in a perfect state of preservation at the end of many years. They therefore think that no human bones having been found at the place where Sir John Franklin's party was said to have perished, it is to be concluded that the Esquimaux' tale is untrue. They also say that the different kinds of wood of which chips were found could not be those of any government boat which any party could drag 100 miles over the ice, and that Sir John Franklin, who was well aware of the means of reaching the Hudson's Bay posts by the Back or Mackenzie Rivers, probably carried with him planks of different kinds of wood, in order to construct a light boat with which to ascend one or other of these streams, and that it is possible, that failing in this attempt the remains of his party had taken refuge among the Esquimaux and that some of them may still be living. They further add that in any case, the whole of the crews of the two ships were not accounted for, and on these grounds they urged on the government the necessity of further search. To this line of argument however the government has declined to yield, and further means of search have been refused.

We had recently an opportunity of hearing from Dr. Rae's own lips an account of his travels, his answer to all these difficulties as to the fate of Franklin, and his own reasons for arriving at the conclusion that the story of the Esquimaux was true, and that he had really found the last resting place of the latest survivors of these gallant crews whose names deserve to be recorded among those of the most devoted victims to scientific discovery.

The occasion on which we had the advantage of hearing Dr. Rae was purely accidental. It was the last day of the session of the American Scientific Association here. The section was about to close its proceedings, when a learned member announced that Dr. Rae was present and would, if agreeable, show those of the Franklin relics he had retained. No sooner had the audience learned that Rae was in the room than he was loudly called for, and he answered most goodnaturedly to the call. The following report, though it wants the life-interest which attaches to Dr. Rae's own narrative, is, we believe, as nearly correct as may be.

Dr. RAE.—“Previous to my expedition in 1854, when I found these articles, I had been engaged in four boat expeditions to the Arctic regions and had traced some 3,000 miles of coast. This last expedition was undertaken more for the purposes of geographical information than to search for Sir John Franklin, as I had hardly any expectation of finding any traces of his party in the direction I was going. But one day, in the course of my travels, I met an Esquimaux who told me that a party of about thirty white men had died of starvation beyond a great river, a long way to the West. On enquiring among the Esquimaux I found they were in possession of pieces of watches, pocket chronometers and silver spoons with crests and letters upon them, which turned out to be those of persons belonging to Sir John Franklin's expedition. I also found Sir John's cross of knighthood and a small round silver plate engraved Sir John Franklin, K. C. B. and other articles. In fact, some of my men had their coats covered with buttons they obtained from the Esquimaux, so it had evidently been a large party. I bought these articles from the Esquimaux for saws, daggers and other weapons. They gave them up quite willingly. Doubts have been expressed as to the truth of this story and the honesty of the Esquimaux, and it has been suggested that they had murdered the men of this party and robbed their bodies. This I do not believe for I have always found them honest and trustworthy. Their memory too is extremely correct. They have of course no writings but they hand down from one to another the most accurate descriptions of what they have seen. I wintered among them in 1817 and they then described to me the visit of Parry and others, twenty years before, so well that I at once recognised Parry from the description, and he subsequently confirmed to me the circumstances of his visit which they had related to me. Then as to their having robbed and murdered the men of this party, I can only say that as long as I was amongst them they never stole an article from me, and when I went away on a distant expedition I left only three men with the stores. Yet the Esquimaux never molested them in the least, although they would have gained a great deal more by murdering or robbing them than by the destruction of Franklin's party. On the contrary they were very polite in their manners to them and when they saw

the men taking the pot off the fire at meal time they rose and went away—a kind of delicacy which does not always prevail in more civilized societies. I have observed that on the part of the Esquimaux to the East of the Mackenzie River, there is no instance of that bloody-thirsty disposition towards the whites and the Indians that one meets with to the West. I explain this circumstance in this way. To the West the Esquimaux and the Indians are always at war, the latter being anxious to keep the Esquimaux back from participating in the trade with the whites, and as the whites supply the Indians with fire-arms in exchange for furs they are looked upon by the Esquimaux as the allies of the Indians.

The Esquimaux among whom I have been, are very exemplary in their domestic relations and are much more cleanly than those Dr. Kane met with farther north. When you go among them they bring forward their wives and children and introduce them to you, and seem proud of any notice you take of them or of any presents you make them. The women are not treated as slaves as they are among many of the Indian tribes. They have only to take care of the snowhouse and the affairs of the household. They are very kind to their wives, and children are considered as a great blessing. The more children there are in a family the richer it is considered. Indeed so much is this the case that when children lose their parents they are immediately adopted by other members of the tribe, who bring them up as their own children, and there is often even a scramble as to who shall get them. The Esquimaux are very grateful too for any kindness. I have had an opportunity of being of use to them more than once, and they always seemed obliged to me for what I did for them. On one occasion they ran short of food; we had plenty, and we supplied them from our stores. Afterwards, when I wanted seal fat for my men to eat with their venison they brought it and laid it down at the doors of the huts, and refused to take any payment for it, saying that we had fed them when they were hungry. I always found them frank and friendly. I never had a quarrel with any of them but one man, and he was considered so bad a character among themselves that they wanted me to shoot him. This I, of course, refused to do unless he interfered with us, and they then asked me to give them some powder, which I had told them was poison, to kill him with. He was a very powerful fellow and they were afraid of him.

For my own part, I have no doubt as to Franklin's fate. His purpose was to try and reach Behring's Straits, and he had been known to say, that if he met ice he would push his ships into it and take his chance. After wintering at Beechy Island, the first year, as we now know he did, he probably tried to reach Cape Walker and from thence to gain Behring's Straits; but being caught in the ice was obliged to abandon his ship and by boat and sledge to endeavour to reach the American continent, through Peel Sound and from the ice escape up Back River. In this attempt I believe he and his party perished. We know that Franklin had provisions for three years and a half, and that he calculated upon making them last four years. We also know that he had salted down a number of the little ducks, that are so plentiful at certain seasons in these regions, intending to live upon them should his other provisions fail. It is extremely probable that among the provisions that he took with him, there was a portion bad, as after he left it was discovered that large quantities of the preserved meats which had been supplied to government were unfit for use. Thus his resources might be considerably diminished and it is well known that it requires full rations to keep men in health in that climate. Now, if the men, attacked by scurvy, and no ship expedition has ever yet completely escaped, took to eating these salted birds, they would die off like cholera patients. Scurvy is the most frightful disease I know of. It is the great enemy of the Arctic voyager. This would therefore account for the deaths of so large a party.

As it is evident that Sir John Franklin must have gone down Peel Sound, we know pretty well where he must have left his ships. Lady Franklin has therefore sent out, another ship, under captain McClintock to endeavour to find out the place where the ships were abandoned, and to determine if possible the place of the Magnetic Pole, which was discovered in 1830 by Sir James Parry, and to see if there had been any shifting that would explain the variations of the compass. He would also endeavour to make the North West Passage which captain McClure had only done by walking a part of the way upon the ice, he having been obliged to leave his ship frozen in. If any man can do all this, it is captain McClintock. He has great experience, and his vessel, a small screw steamer, is admirably adapted for the work. It is probably the best equipped expedition that has ever been sent to the Polar regions. He has only taken 30 men and he has provisions for them for three years. Should these fail he can fall back upon the caches left by previous expeditions, sufficient to support 100 men