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To H. MERIVALE, Esq., *Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

SIR,

13, Ashley Place, April 18, 1859.

I have the honor to enclose a Report which I have received by post from Captain Blakiston of the Royal Artillery, with a request that it should be transmitted for the information of H.M. Government.

The Report, with Map and Sections, states the particulars of Captain Blakiston's Exploration of the Kootanie and Boundary Passes of the Rocky Mountains; the first known only by name, and the second unknown, except to the native Indians; the Kootanie Pass proving to be the most southern, and by far the shortest yet known in the British territory.

I have at the same time received from Captain Blakiston a continuation of the magnetic observations which constituted his special duty, up to the date of the transmission of his letter. These evince the same care and skill which have characterised his former observations. The results will be laid before the Royal Society, as those of his earlier observations have been.

In the successful conduct of the Exploration confided to him by Mr Palliser, Captain Blakiston has had an opportunity of manifesting his desire and capability of contributing towards the accomplishment of the Geographical objects of the Expedition, which will, I trust, obtain for him the approval of H.M. Government.

(Signed) EDWARD SABINE,

Major-General, R.A.

Report, on the Exploration of the Kootanie and Boundary Passes of the Rocky Mountains in 1858. By Captain BLAKISTON, Royal Artillery.

ON the 12th of August, 1858, I left the camp of the main body of the Exploring Expedition at the site of Bow Fort, base of the Rocky Mountains, lat. $51^{\circ}9'N.$, long. $115^{\circ}20'W.$, and after crossing the Bow River by a ford about four miles above that point, I gained ground to the eastward, so as to get clear of the broken and wooded country on the edge of the mountains.

My party consisted of three Red River half-breed voyageurs, Thomas Sinclair, Amable Hogg, and Charles Racette, besides a Thickwood Cree Indian "James," whom I had engaged as hunter to the party. I had ten horses, five of which were used for riding, and the rest carried the packs, containing a quantity of ball and powder, tobacco, a few knives, and other articles of small value for Indian trade; also, some dried meat and pemmican, with tea, sugar, and salt, as well as two boxes containing my instruments, books, &c.

Soon after leaving Bow River, we crossed one of its tributaries, the Kananaskasis or Lake River, a rapid stream coming out of the mountains