

The SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY to Rear Admiral BOWLES.

SIR,

Admiralty, December 5, 1851.

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received the Report of the Committee of Naval Officers, appointed to inquire into and report on the conduct of the officers intrusted with the command of the late expedition in search of Captain Sir John Franklin and party, and whether everything was done by them to carry into effect their instructions, and to prosecute the search for the missing ships, I am commanded by their Lordships to request you will accept for yourself, and convey to the other officers of whom the Committee was composed, the best thanks of the Board of Admiralty for the ability, intelligence, and zeal with which the inquiry has been conducted.

My Lords have perused with the greatest interest the Report, as well as the evidence which the Committee have thought fit to take upon the subject, and have much satisfaction in expressing their entire concurrence with the Committee in the opinion expressed by them of the conduct of Captain Austin and the officers engaged in the recent expedition.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. PARKER.

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