

What answer did the captain and mate give you?

The captain, who was below, said he did not think they were Sir John Franklin's ships; the mate said very likely they might be, and further they would be a good prize, as their chronometers and instruments would be a fortune for any one. No other opinion was expressed by any person that I am aware of.

On which side did you pass the iceberg?

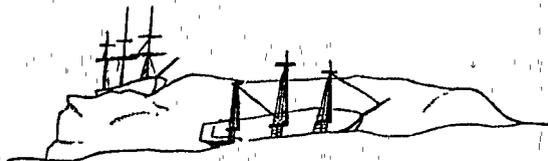
To the best of my belief it was on the starboard side.

Do you think it possible you could have been deceived, by any optical delusion, as to the undoubted fact of the objects seen being really ships?

Having seen them in different positions, and so minutely, I can have no doubt on that subject at all.

Is the plan now handed to you (published in the "Illustrated London News" of the 17th April 1852) correct?

The ship on her beam ends (nearest the water) appears to be correctly laid down, but she was much further upon the ice; the other vessel was lying with her stern to the other's broadside; distance from each other I thought about one mile.



Could you make a plan of the ships' positions?

No, I cannot; but I think the upright vessel is thrown too high on the sketch, and the iceberg in the rear is not thrown nearly high enough.

Do you know if the master of the "Renovation" reported this circumstance on his arrival, officially, at Quebec?

I do not know; I filled up a report for him, and mentioned that two vessels had been seen on an iceberg, under the head of "Intelligence," but said nothing about the opinion that they might be Sir John Franklin's ships.

Was John Todd a seaman on board the "Renovation"?

He was; he shipped as cook and seaman, but was sick during the passage.

*John S. Lynch.*

Taken in my presence, in Prescott, this 17th day of May 1852.

*Edward Boxer, Capt. R.N.*

*Thomas W. Luard,*

Barrack-Master & Acting Ordnance Storekeeper.

Prescott, 17 May 1852.

No. 50.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,

Park-street, Westminster,

3 June 1852.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 6th ultimo, I am directed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to inform you that they lost no time in conveying to their officers at the outports instructions to institute the inquiries directed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in respect to the vessels seen in the ice in the spring of last year by the "Renovation."

The Commissioners have as yet received answers from only two of their officers; viz., from Captain Ellis, at Limerick, who states that there was not at the time any vessel in that port which has sailed for North America early in 1851, and that the only information on the subject which he had been able to obtain was from the examination of Mr. Simpson, the mate of the "Renovation," at which he assisted, and the other from Lieutenant Griffiths, at Waterford.

Of the latter letter I enclose a copy, as it contains some observations in regard to Sir John Franklin's ships which may be of use.

The Commissioners apprehend from their not receiving answers from any of their other officers, that they have been unable to obtain any information on the subject.

I have, &c.

(signed)

*S. Walcott,*

Secretary.

To A. Stafford, Esq. M. P.

&c. &c. &c.

Admiralty.