

4 CORRESPONDENCE, &c. RESPECTING ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

— No. 2. —

Opinion of Captain Sir George Back. **SUGGESTIONS** from Captain Sir *George Back*, on the Subject of sending out Supplies for Sir *James Ross*, &c.

Sir George Back is of opinion that a transport, properly strengthened under the bows, and under the counter, should be taken up, without loss of time, to proceed to Lancaster Sound.

He considers this preferable to employing one of the whale ships.

The transport to be laden with as much provisions as she can with perfect safety carry.

He thinks that it would be desirable to put on board a certain quantity of coal, as part cargo, or perhaps the whole of the fuel might be carried out by one of the whale ships, whose services might be engaged, and the vessel (say the "Pacific," whaler of Aberdeen, whose master, Mr. Charles Reid, has a brother, Ice-master of the "Erebus") should be ordered to keep company with the transport.

Sir George Back considers that Lieutenant Griffiths, who took out the "Barretto Junior" to Disco, and has therefore had experience, and who was favourably recommended by Sir John Franklin, would be the best officer to select to command her.

The transport, on entering Lancaster Sound should proceed up Barrow's Strait till she falls in with the "Investigator" or her boats, and has communicated with some part of Sir James Ross's expedition.

On her return into Baffin's Bay (unless receiving direct orders to the contrary from the commanding officer of the "Investigator") the transports should be ordered to proceed along the coast to the north, towards the head of the bay, carefully examining the different headlands or prominent points, with a view to discover any signals which may indicate the proximity of the parties.

The execution of these orders must necessarily depend upon the open navigation among the ice, but the officer in charge of her is in no way to risk the safe return of the vessel to England before the close of the season, *i. e.* the 15th September, by which period his ship ought to be in open water and clear of the ice.

Sir George Back is of opinion, that having provided Sir James Ross with the means of continuing the search another season, that the manner of so doing should be left entirely to his well-known intelligence and discretion, nothing doubting that he will thoroughly explore the Wellington Channel and other northern passages from Barrow's Straits, to which his attention might perhaps again be directed, and that he should be authorized to retain the services of the "Investigator."

Duplicates and triplicates, &c. of any orders for Sir James Ross should be sent out by the several whale ships.

As regards Richardson's expedition, should he fail in his object, Sir George Back thinks that the further prosecution of the research should be entirely trusted to the Hudson's Bay Company, leaving it to them to adopt their own means for carrying it into execution.

— No. 3. —

Opinion of Captain Beechey. **REMARKS** of Captain *Beechey* on the Mode of Communicating with Sir *James Ross*, and rendering further Assistance for the Relief of Sir *John Franklin's* Expedition.

Westbourne Crescent, 12 January 1849.

In reply to your note, requesting my opinion as to whether any further measures than those contemplated in the instructions to Sir James Ross should now be undertaken by the Government for the furtherance of the object of his expedition, I have to observe that it seems to me highly important that the Admiralty should take active measures to prevent the execution of an order which I find Captain Bird received conditionally from Sir James Ross on the 12th July last, *viz.*: "In the event of his not meeting with Sir James, he is to land all his provision except just what may be sufficient to carry him home, and to ensure the return