

Martis, 10^o die Julii, 1855.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. MACKINNON, in the Chair.

Sir Robert Peel.
Admiral Walcott.
Captain Scobell.
Sir Thomas Acland.
Mr. Gordon.
Lord Stanley.

Sir Thomas Herbert.
Mr. Butt.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Stevenson.
Mr. Talbot.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned to Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 14^o die Julii, 1855.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. MACKINNON, in the Chair.

Sir Thomas Acland.
Lord Stanley.
Captain Scobell.
Mr. Gordon.
Sir Thomas Herbert.
Mr. Stevenson.

Admiral Walcott.
Sir Robert Peel.
Mr. Jackson.
Mr. Ker Seymer.
Mr. Butt.

Draft Report proposed by the Chairman, read 1^o, as follows:—

“YOUR Committee having examined some of the most distinguished explorers of the Arctic Regions, including those who were ordered to relieve or ascertain the fate of the lamented Sir John Franklin, having also had before them the evidence of others well acquainted with the Polar Seas, and also the report and evidence of Captain M'Clure, cannot but consider that a North-west Passage has been discovered, the concise account of which is as follows :

ABSTRACT OF THE EVIDENCE PRODUCED.

“On the 30th July 1850, the ‘Investigator’ parted company with Her Majesty’s ship ‘Herald,’ Captain Kellett, off Cape Lisburne, and stood to the N. N. W. until the morning of the 2d August, when the ice was first fallen in with in lat. 72° 1', long. 166° 12' w. Captain M'Clure worked along its edge until midnight of the 5th, when Point Barrow was rounded in open water; from this point his progress was beset with difficulties and anxieties of no ordinary character, having to traverse an ice-encumbered sea hitherto considered impracticable for navigation. In this sea the ‘Investigator’ continued her course along the north coast of America, and on the 30th August reached Cape Bathurst, having in the interval threaded her course amidst sand banks, and heavy masses of ice, a great portion of that time enveloped in thick fog, where the lead was the only guide.

Capt. Kellett's Ev.

M'Clure's Ev., No. 188 and following.

See Captain Pullen's Evidence before Arctic Committee, 7 Nov. 1851; also Captain Beechey's opinion, Question 1380.

“Here finding that the ice pressed upon the shore, barring any further advance, Captain M'Clure anchored until the 1st of September, when the ice slightly moving enabled him to round the Cape, crossing Franklin Bay, and on the morning of the 6th high land was observable to the N. E., and on the 7th Captain M'Clure landed on its southern extremity, taking possession in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty, with the usual ceremonies, naming it Baring's Land, after the First Lord of the Admiralty. Proceeding to the N. E., through continuous fogs, until the morning of the 9th, when, it clearing a little, high land was remarked, to which he gave the name of Prince Albert; and on the 10th two islands were passed, which were called after Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal; the further advance of the ‘Investigator’ was then impeded by ice setting in from the N. E., which beset her, and in which she drifted about the Straits in great peril, attached to a small piece of ice, drawing eight fathom water, until the 30th September, when she was firmly frozen in. Captain M'Clure, entertaining a strong impression that the waters in which the

M'Clure's Ev., 197 and following.

‘Investigator’