

No. 42.

Custom-house, Port of Prescott, Canada,

11 May 1852.

Sir,

I HAD the honour of receiving yesterday the enclosed letter from J. W. Dunscomb, Esq., Collector of Customs, Port of Quebec, Canada, for inquiry and report thereon to your Lordships at as early a day as possible.

Immediately on the receipt of it I called upon Mr. George S. Lynch, of this place, and submitted the interrogatories contained therein for his report, which he this morning readily furnished me, and which is also enclosed herewith.

Encl. 1, in No. 42.

Encl. 2, in No. 42.

I have, &c.

(signed)

A. Jones,

Collector.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1, in No. 42.

Sir,

Custom-house, Quebec, 6 May 1852.

You will have observed, probably, the correspondence now in course of publication in the newspapers, headed "The Arctic Expedition," respecting two ships seen on the 20th April 1851, from on board the ship "Renovation," from Limerick, on her voyage to Quebec.

It appears that a Mr. Joseph Supple Lynch, who at present resides in Prescott, with Thomas Fraser, Esq., was a passenger by the "Renovation," and that he saw the ships alluded to, examined them attentively through a glass, and was of opinion that they were the ships belonging to Sir John Franklin's expedition, an opinion in the accuracy of which there seems now to be a general concurrent belief, including Her Majesty's Government. In order to settle doubts upon a subject of so much importance, it is desirable to obtain the fullest particulars regarding these ships from intelligent persons on board the "Renovation," who had the opportunity of seeing them, and in the execution of this commission it is thought that you can bear a useful part; and I cannot doubt your readiness to do so.

Will you therefore seek out Mr. Lynch, whom you will find a most intelligent and willing witness, and endeavour to obtain from him full answers to the following interrogatories:—

Were you a passenger on board the "Renovation" in April 1851, when that vessel was on her voyage from Limerick to Quebec, and who were the officers of the "Renovation"?

Please state, to the best of your knowledge and recollection, what occurred during the passage when the ship "Renovation" was in the vicinity of the ice on the banks of Newfoundland?

State whether, in passing near to an iceberg, you saw two vessels high and dry upon the iceberg, on or about the 20th April 1851?

State at what distance you passed them, and if you examined them particularly with the spy-glass, and saw their position; also state what occurred, and whether you expressed any opinion to the mate as to their being the ships of Sir John Franklin, and if the mate expressed any, and what opinion in the matter?

State also if any persons on board expressed any opinion respecting the two vessels, and what these opinions were?

State whether, on examining with a spy-glass, you discovered any objects lying on the ice between the ships, that might have been boats, stores or tents, or anything belonging to the ships, so as to show that there had been intercourse, to and fro, between the two ships after they had got enclosed in the ice?

Please say was there any reason, other than already stated, why you supposed them to be Sir John Franklin's ships, and what prevented the further examination by boats?

State particularly how the hulls and masts of these ships were painted?

State also what might be the tonnage of each of these vessels, and were they full rigged?

I have, &c.

(signed)

J. W. Dunscomb.

P.S.—I beg the favour of your addressing a copy of your reply hereto to Captain Sir James Alexander, A.D.C., for the information of Lieutenant-general Rowan.

To the Collector of Customs at Prescott.

Enclosure 2, in No. 42.

Sir,

Prescott, 11 May 1852.

I WAS a passenger (the only one) on board the brig "Renovation" in April 1851, from Limerick to Quebec, Edward Coward, master, Robert Simpson, chief mate; the second mate's name I do not recollect.

We had a very fine run from the Irish coast, and I do not recollect anything particular occurring