

This power we have hitherto used in extreme moderation, and we are glad to say that we are not reduced to the necessity of exercising it any further. One of our men leaves us in consequence of a bad complaint, and has been replaced by a servant from M'Kensie's River.

To chief trader M'Pherson, the gentleman in charge of that district, we are indebted for valuable assistance in many ways, likewise to chief factor M'Leod, of Athabasca. Between them our order of last winter for an additional supply of pemmican, dogs, sledge-wood, leather, ammunition, guns, axes, and tobacco, has been completed; while the prompt and kind attention of chief trader Ross, of Norway-house, has fulfilled the private orders of our people, for a part of which we now send to Great Slave Lake.

We are, &c.,

P. W. DEASE, Chief Factor.

T. SIMPSON.

To the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Committee of the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company, London.

NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY ON FOOT TO
THE EASTWARD.

On the 20th of August, the date appointed for the return of former expeditions from these desolate shores, I left our boats, still hopelessly beset with ice, to perform a ten days' journey on foot to the eastward, and my companions were five servants and two Indians: we carried a wooden-framed canvas canoe, and nearly the same other baggage as on the journey to Point Barrow last year, with the addition of a tent for the nightly shelter of the whole party, on a coast almost destitute of fuel. Each man's load, at starting, weighed nearly half a cwt., and our daily progress averaged twenty geographical miles. About the middle of the first day's journey, we passed the furthest point to which Sir John Franklin and his officers walked in 1821. Beyond that, the coast preserved its N.N.E. trending to the encampment of the same night, situate on the pitch of a low cape, which I have named Cape Franklin. From the west to the north-east, a new land, or crowded chain of islands, of great extent, in many places high and covered with snow, stretched along at the distance apparently of thirty miles, and led to the apprehension that we were entering a deep sound or inlet. The main land now turned up to E.N.E., which continued to be its general bearing for the three following days. It is flat, its outline or path leading alternately over soft sand, sharp stones, and swampy ground. At the distance of from one to two miles the coast is skirted by a range of low stony hills, partially clothed with dull verdure, which sends down to

the seas numberless brooks and small streams; none of the latter, at that season, reached above our waists, though the deep and ragged channels of them shewed that, in the spring, they must be powerful torrents. Two leagues inland, a hill, which I have named Mount George after Governor Simpson, rises to the height of 600 feet, and forms a conspicuous object for a deep journey; on either side, the ice all along lay immoveably aground upon the shallow beach, extending in every direction as far as the eye could reach. The great northern land still stretched out before us, and kept alive doubts of our having explored an immense bay, which, however, the increase in the tides, the quantity of sea-weed, and the shells, and the discovery of the remains of a large whale and of a polar bear, could not altogether dispel. These doubts seemed almost converted into certainty as we drew near, on the fourth evening, an elevated cape, and saw land apparently all around, with feelings of bitter disappointment. I ascended the height, from whose summit a splendid and unlooked for view suddenly burst upon me. The ocean, as if transformed by enchantment, rolled its free waves beneath and beyond the reach of vision. To the eastward, islands of various shape and size overspread its surface, and the northern land terminated in a bold and lofty cape, bearing north-east, at least forty miles distant, while the coast of the Continent trended away to the south entrance of an ice-skirted strait. The extensive land to the northward, I have called Victoria Land, in honour of our youthful sovereign, and its eastern extremity I called Cape Pelly, after the Governor of the Hon. Company. To the promontory where we encamped, I have attached the name of Cape Alexander, after an only brother, who would give his right hand to be the sharer of my journeys. The rise and fall of the tide there was about three feet, being the greatest observed by us in the Arctic seas.

The coast here changes its character; the water becomes deep, and the approach easy, and I have little doubt that the islands contain secure harbours for shipping. Next morning, at the distance of eight or nine miles, we crossed another high cape, formed of trap rocks, in latitude 68, 52, 18, 5 N., the variation of the compass being 63 E. The travelling had become more and more toilsome, our road now passing over some miles of round loose stones, and then through wet mossy tracks, sown with large boulders, and tangled with dwarf willows. At our usual company hours we opened a large bay, studded with islands, which ran on five miles to the S. S. W., and then turned off in