

A LETTER OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

The following letter was found many years ago, in an advocate's office in Montreal, in a bundle of old papers, and is now in my possession.

G. BABY.

55, Devonshire Street, Portland Place, London, Eng.

28th January, 1824.

MY DEAR SIR,

I received your letter three days ago, but numerous occupations prevented me from answering it until this evening. I am exceedingly sorry that you have been so great an invalid, a fit of sickness however seems to be the forfeit every person has to pay who visits the shores of Great Britain after a long residence in other climates. I also experienced it during the last winter though not in a severe degree, and perhaps my illness might have been attributed to the close confinement which the preparation of my narrative occasioned than to the change of climate. Your information as to my being about to revisit the northern shores of America is perfectly correct; though not until the next spring. It has been considered advisable both by myself and Government that a year's notice of the approval of the Expedition should be given in the country, in order that provisions and the requisite stores may be prepared, so that the party may have as little delay as possible in advancing to their proposed winter quarters on the McKenzie River. The orders for the engagement of the men who are to convey the necessary stores for the supply of the Indians who will be engaged for our service are already despatched to Canada. The Company have nominated Mr. Dease to go down to Bear Lake, build the house and secure the Indians,