

the relics as the remains of a winter station; but he adds—"It is quite possible, however, to suppose that the ships may have been stopped during the season of navigation, and, without any immediate prospect of getting on, the tents may have been established, and the instruments landed for observation."

Be this as it may, these relics attest, in the first place, that Sir John Franklin's expedition was not lost, as some have supposed, in Baffin's Bay, but that it had reached, on the first year of its adventurous voyage, as far as most subsequent expeditions have been able to go at any later season. That the expedition did not, arrived at this point, proceed up Wellington Channel, we think is satisfactorily determined by Captain Ommanney, who must be in possession of the best evidence, having, by the latest intelligence, sailed onwards in the direction of Cape Hotham and Cape Walker—the direction to which our hopes have always pointed.

The only further statement that it remains for us to make is, that by the last advices, the *Enterprise* and *Investigator* must this summer have reached the Arctic Seas by Behring's Straits. On the 25th of August the *Assistance* was within Cape Hotham, but the ice was reported as very heavy, extending all around, from Prince Leopold's Island to Cape Farewell, to the westward, so as to prevent any of the vessels getting to Cape Walker. Captain Penny, with the *Lady Franklin* and *Sophia*, was pushing his way up Wellington Channel, but it was feared that the ice would ultimately be too strong for him, and that he would have to return home, leaving Captain Austin's squadron only to winter in the ice. The *Felix* was to make for Admiralty Inlet, and Sir John Ross

intended to return to England. The American brigantine *Advance* was off Cape Riley; the American brig *Rescue* was close beset with ice near Cape Bowen. At the time of the departure of the *Prince Albert*, that vessel was unable to get into either Port Bowen or Port Leopold, where Sir Jon Ross wintered. Wellington Channel, and the channel beyond Leopold Island, appear also to have been completely blocked up with heavy ice. Under these circumstances, although, by some remote possibility, Captain Penny's or Sir John Ross's expeditions may bring some additional news, it is much to be feared that very little can be done until next season, when Captain Austin's expedition will be in an advanced and favorable position to commence operations. Of what avail the *Investigator* and *Enterprise* may have been on their side, it would be impossible to conjecture. To what efficient purposes ice-parties, balloons, and the other resources of the expeditions wintering in the Arctic seas may further be put to, it would be equally vain to speculate upon. Hope itself grows pale at the idea of our starving countrymen, if still alive, lingering in their icy prison for one more winter of cold, and darkness, and want! There is a Providence that watches over all: it may still restore the lost mariners, whose track has at length been struck, to their friends and country. But the very flicker of expectation raised by this discovery is almost at once extinguished by the lateness of the period at which that discovery was made, when the channels of the Icy Archipelago were closed with adamantine gates, and a long, dark winter had already once more settled down upon their unknown, undiscovered prison-house.

THE GREAT FAIR.—Preparations of all kinds are making for the guidance and information of the millions who will assemble to witness the Great Industrial Tournament of 1851.—Mr. Wyld, of Charing Cross, has published a detailed and accurate ground plan of the interior and outer arrangements of the Palace of Glass, which will be of great use in directing a visitor through its intricacies. The sites of offices and refreshment rooms, the places of exit and entrance, &c.,

with the approaches, are all laid down:—and the whole is surmounted by the perspective view of the elevation first made familiar to the public through our columns. The contract for printing and preparing the catalogues has been taken by Messrs. Spicer, the paper-makers, and Messrs. Clowes, the printers,—as the parties whose joint tender offered the largest contribution to the funds of the exhibition.