

" Nevertheless, they found themselves, on the 18th of August, in the 150th meridian, 70° 30' north latitude. Captain Franklin had thus cleared more than half the distance between the mouth of the Mackenzie and Cape Ice beyond Behring Straits. The undaunted explorer was not wanting in provisions, nor were the canoes even damaged. The sailors were all in good health and the sea open, but the instructions of the admiralty were positive in their prohibition of any extension of the exploration, unless the captain reached Kotzebue Bay before the commencement of the stormy season. He was consequently obliged to return to the Mackenzie River, entering Great Bear Lake on the 21st September. Here he was joined by the other party, which had explored the shores from the mouth of the Mackenzie to that of the Copper Mine River. They had even sailed as far as the Gulf of the Concoration of George IV, ascending eastward to the 118th meridian. Good shelter was met with everywhere whilst the coast proved much more accessible than that followed by Captain Franklin." See also *Aubrey's History of England*, vol. 3, pp. 808, 809. Aubrey remarks that " Franklin's party endured dreadful sufferings which were ill compensated by the exploration of a few hundred miles of coast."

Franklin's travels are universally known, but it is not so generally known that in this, as well as in many other expeditions, he was accompanied by Canadian *voyageurs* from the Province of Quebec.

I was fortunate enough to discover in Griffin, their names and domicile. In March and April, 1824, Hon. William McGillivray, of the firm of McGillivray, Thain and Co., agents in Montreal of the Hudsons' Bay Company, selected sixteen of the best Canadian *voyageurs* to accompany Franklin in the course of his exploration. According to their engagement they were to go " in one of his canoes, on a voyage to the Indian countries, from and back to Montreal, for a period of three years, wintering at such places or posts as might be from time to time ordered by the said Captain John Franklin. And it is moreover especially agreed and understood that the said hired party shall not be bound to journey farther north than the Mackenzie River." Wages to be 1400 livres per annum, or fourteen times more than ordinary. The names of these courageous Canadians were :