

yet a chance they may be fallen in with some day, as timber ships have drifted to the coast of Portugal and the Bay of Biscay.

I have spared no pains to obtain every particle of information on this important circumstance, and it is to be deplored that no measures were taken to examine the vessels; it appears to have been a subject of deep regret on the minds of Mr. Coward and Mr. Simpson ever since; and Mr. Lynch was strongly impressed with the idea that they were Sir John Franklin's ships.

In this investigation I have received the co-operation of Commander J. J. Palmer, Commander Wm. Ellis (a), and Captain William Caldwell, Inspector of Police for the county of Limerick, who have rendered me every assistance in their power.

Mr. Simpson has shown every desire to give all the information which he is now enabled to do, and I have every confidence in his candour and integrity.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Erasmus Ommanney,*
Captain R.N.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1, in No. 18.

REPLIES made by Mr. *Robert Simpson*, Master of the "British Queen," late Mate of the "Renovation," in answer to Questions put to him by Captain E. Ommanney, R.N., in the presence of Commander J. J. Palmer, R.N., Commander William Ellis (a), R.N., and Captain William Caldwell, Inspector of Police.

How long have you been at sea?

Thirteen years.

Have you ever seen any ice before the last voyage?

Yes; in the Black Sea I was frozen in, but never before off Newfoundland. It was my first voyage to America, and it was Mr. Coward's (the master) also.

At what distance did the "Renovation" pass from the ice on which the vessels lay?

Five or six miles.

How were the ships painted?

They appeared to be all black.

Had the upper ship any of her topgallant rigging aloft?

It was not up, and all the running gear appeared to be unrove; there was nothing but the standing rigging to be seen.

How was the lower rigging set up?

Did not take notice.

Did you remark anything peculiar about the fitting of the bobstays?

No.

Could you distinguish any gaffs or other spars in their places, except the masts and yards?

No; the ships were too far from us.

Were the sails bent?

No; they were all unbent. It was remarked at the time by Mr. Lynch and myself.

Could you discover any one moving on board the vessels?

No. The large one looked like a wreck; the smaller one, on the highest part of the ice, was upright, and looked in good condition.

Had any person been on either ship, would they have seen you?

Yes, no doubt they would.

Were the ships housed over?

The large one, which lay on her beam ends, with her deck exposed to our view, was not; I am not certain about the other.

What boats could you perceive?

There were no boats visible.

Could you make out any boats' davits?

No.

Could you distinguish the ship's rudder, and whether they were suspended across the sterns?

No; they were too distant.