

and Edward Belcher—men who subsequently distinguished themselves in Polar voyages of discovery. Ross proceeded through Davis' Straits into Baffin's Bay, and reached Lancaster Sound, from which place he returned to England with the information that he saw a range of mountains, which he had named the Croker Mountains, stretching across that inlet and barring all progress to the West by that way. The voyage was a failure. In the same year, the ships *Dorothea* and *Trent*, under the orders of Capt. Buchan, with whom Lieut. Franklin acted as second in command, were sent to Behring's Straits. But the perils and difficulties of this expedition were more remarkable than the results of it, and the ships returned before the close of the year.

In 1819, Franklin, impressed by the discoveries of Hearne, Mackenzie and others, along the northern edge of this continent, undertook to trace the looked for passage, from the mouth of the Coppermine River, eastward, by the shore, towards the waters of Hudson's Bay. Proceeding from one of the forts of the Hudson's Bay Company, attended by Mr. Back and Dr. Richardson, since distinguished for their explorations, he traced the Coppermine to the ocean. Thence, his party, with their boats and sledges, journeyed along the coast, for 600 miles; till at last, having reached a point which they named Turnagain, and finding their provisions falling short, they quitted the sea and took up their march, of fifty days, along Hood's River towards Fort Enterprise. In September 1820, commenced the dreariest and most miserable of journeys. The expedition consisted of Franklin, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Hood a young officer, Mr. Back, Hepburn a sailor, ten Canadians with French names, and two Indians. The country was desolate, barren, and covered with snow. In a few days their pemmican failed and their chief resource was a sort of moss called *tripe de roche*. Though they succeeded in shooting a few animals, their sufferings from hunger and cold soon became dreadful, as they slowly made their way through snow-drifts and ravines, and over torrents, in the direction of Point Lake. Franklin fainted from exhaustion and want of food. Mr. Back, and three men were hurried in advance towards Fort Enterprise to hasten relief, while Franklin and the rest moved painfully on, at the rate of five or six miles a day. They were soon reduced to eat the leather of their old shoes and two Canadians dropped down and perished in the snow. Dr. Richardson, Hepburn, and Michel the Iroquois, remained with poor Mr. Hood under a tent, while Franklin and the rest

pushed on towards the Fort. When the latter reached it at last, after having left three more Canadians to perish in the track—they found it deserted and foodless, and, looking into each other's emaciated faces, burst into tears. Sending part of his men forward, Franklin was forced to stay at the fort, with three others, also unable to proceed—and he and they had no food but the soup of old bones picked up or dug from the ground. In a day or two they were joined by Richardson and Hepburn who informed him that Michel the Iroquois had assassinated Mr. Hood, and that the Doctor had shot him in turn. On the first of November, two Canadians died at the fort, and the survivors could not remove them. On the 7th, Indians came bringing provisions, and they were all saved, when nearly at the last gasp. Certainly Sir John Franklin did not proceed on his last voyage to the Polar seas, uninured to the dreariest and most perilous chances of that terrible region.

While Franklin was suffering in this overland expedition, Lieutenant Parry was making his most successful voyage. In May 1819, he proceeded with the *Hecla* and *Griper* to Lancaster Sound, where he proved the Croker Mountains to be as visionary as those of *Hy Brasil* off the north-west coast of Ireland, and, advancing through the strait which he named after Mr. Barrow, Secretary of the Admiralty, made the most pronounced discoveries of modern research in that region. He first saw and named Wellington Channel, Regent's Inlet, Bathurst's, Byam Martin's, Melville's and other islands, now called the Parry Islands. He also saw and defined Banks' Land in the southwestern distance. These places have ever since been the great landmarks of Northern research; no navigator has gone beyond them, and all subsequent discoveries have been made about them and with reference to them. Travelling over Byam Martin's Island, Parry's officers discovered remains of Eskimo huts, and traces of oxen, hares, reindeer and other creatures, proving that in the neighborhood of the Polynya there is no want or difficulty of animal existence. This voyage was a fortunate one in every respect. Parry ran rapidly in, made his discoveries, wintered, and came out again in the open season. His next voyage, in 1821, with the *Fury* and *Hecla*, was to the lower waters—those of Hudson's Bay; and he spent the winter of that year in Fox's Channel. He passed two winters in the North, and explored Melville's Peninsula. In 1823, Capt. Clavering conveyed Capt. Sabine to Spitzbergen and Greenland, to make experiments, determining the con-