

Cape Alexander,

August 16th, 1855.

The U.S. Brig "Arctic," separated from her consort, the "Release," on the morning of the 15th instant off Wolstenholm Island, arrived here this day, and having made unsuccessful search for traces of Dr. Kane or Sir John Franklin and their associates, proceeded immediately on to Cape Hatherton for the same purpose.

H. J. HARTSTENE,

Lieutenant commanding U.S. Arctic Expedition.

Returned here from Cape Hatherton August 18th. Have received information from Esquimaux. Dr. Kane had lost his vessel and gone in his boats. I am going to B(eauchy) Island.

HARTSTENE

August 19th, 1855.—I have returned from Cape Hatherton, and am on my way to rejoin you. If I miss you, remain off Cape Alexander till I return.

HARTSTENE.

U.S. Brig "Arctic," Cape Alexander,

August 16th, 1855.

Sir,

Finding no traces of the missing ones, I shall proceed immediately to Cape Hatherton in continuance of the search, where you will join. You will re-enter the record of our touching here, together with another from yourself to the same effect, all your records to be within 12 feet north by compass of a cairn erected on the most conspicuous and accessible points.

Respectfully, &c.,

H. J. HARTSTENE,

*Lieutenant commanding Arctic Expedition.**Lieutenant Commander Charles C. Simms,**U.S. Brig "Release."*

H.M.S. "ALERT," at Cape Isabella,

29th July, 1875.

"Alert" and "Discovery" erected this cairn 29th July, 1875. Should the Strait be impassable for a sledge, the despatches from the expedition will be deposited in a cask on the lower point magnetic west of this position each spring of our stay north of Smith Sound.

Anyone having despatches or letters for the expedition, is requested to deposit them in the cask, unless he is coming farther north, in that case a cairn will probably be found at Cape Sabine, Dobbin Bay, Carl Ritter Bay, and Port Bellet. All well on board. No ice in sight.

Should the strait be passable, the despatches will be taken to Littleton Island.

G. S. NARES,

Commanding Expedition.

Note.—This is a correct copy of the original, taken from one written at the cairn.

CHARLES R. ARBUTHNOT

Lieutenant R.N.