

2 CORRESPONDENCE, &c. RESPECTING ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

I.
Expedition to Lan-
caster Sound and
Barrow's Straits.

ascertaining the deviation, it is my intention to proceed on our voyage to-morrow morning.

The governor and all the Danish authorities being at present absent from this place and the contiguous settlements; I have been unable to receive any information respecting the state of the sea to the north. The native Esquimaux inform me that the winter has been unusually severe, and that they have been very badly off for provisions; so far, however, as I can judge, and from not meeting with any drift ice in the narrows of the strait, and the fine weather we have experienced, the season appears to me favourable, and I entertain a confident hope that we shall be able to reach Lancaster Sound at an early period of the season.

The officers and crews of both ships are in the enjoyment of perfect health, and animated by as high a degree of ardour and zeal for the success of the good cause in which we are embarked as any commander could desire.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James C. Ross, Captain.*

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.

— No. 3. —

EXTRACT from a Medical Return received from the Surgeon of Her Majesty's Ship "Enterprise."

"SINCE the sailing of the expedition the crew of the ship has enjoyed uninterrupted good health; there has been but one case (pleurisy) of any degree of severity, and that in due course terminated favourably. At present (28th June) there is not a man on the sick list."

"The weather for the most part has been wet or foggy, causing considerable dampness between decks; but the occasional use of the rarefying stove has always been found sufficient to dispel it."

"The expedition has been at Whale Island for the last week, where it has experienced mild, dry, and pleasant weather, notwithstanding that the whole country around is covered with snow. The thermometer ranges from 34 deg. to 53 deg., the mean being 44½ deg."

"The expedition will sail to-morrow in pursuit of the main object of the voyage."

(signed) "*John Robertson (b).*"

— No. 4. —

Her Majesty's Ship "Enterprise,"
Whale Fish Islands, 29 June 1848.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th ultimo, containing an extract of a letter from Sir George Simpson relative to the doubtful supply of provisions likely to be obtained at Fort Good Hope, on the Mackenzie river, I beg you will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that under the circumstances mentioned in Sir George Simpson's letter, of the extreme difficulty of their own people procuring a subsistence, I do not consider it prudent to expose a party of people unacquainted with the country, and unused to the mode of hunting and fishing, to so great hazard of starvation as would evidently be incurred. But should the "Enterprise" winter at Melville Island, or anywhere in its neighbourhood, I shall order the party which their Lordships intended should return to England by the Mackenzie river still to proceed direct for Cape Bathurst or Cape Parry, with the hope of communicating with Sir John Richardson's party, but not to advance so far as to hazard their rejoining the ship before the breaking up of the ice; and thus, by returning by a different route, they will be enabled to examine a larger portion of the most probable space in which the "Erebus" and "Terror" may be, than if they had returned to England by the Mackenzie river.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James C. Ross, Captain.*

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.