

Sub-Enclosure in No. 46.

Sir,

St. John's, Newfoundland, 5 May 1852.

I HAD the honour to receive your letter of this date, and, in compliance with your request, I have made inquiry from several members of the Commercial Society, and can obtain no information relative to the vessels said to have been seen in the ice in April 1851.

It is evident that there must have been some misapprehension on the part of the persons who supposed they had seen such vessels, occasioned perhaps by the deceptive appearance that icebergs assume under some peculiar action of the atmosphere, for it is almost impossible that an iceberg of the magnitude and description spoken of by the crew of the "Renovation" could have passed along this coast from the north, and have reached the latitude of Cape Race, without having been seen by some of the numerous sealing vessels which constantly intersect the field ice in the months of March and April; and if it had escaped their observation, it must have been seen when within 30 miles of Cape Race by others of the very many vessels that pass this island at that season on their way to or from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, or by one of the steamers that weekly pass within a few miles of the Cape, on their way from Liverpool to Halifax, or the States.

The opinion is very general here that no such vessels could have been seen by the crew of the "Renovation."

The Honourable James Crowdy,
Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Thomas.*

No. 47.

Admiralty, 2 June 1852.

Commodore Superintendent at Woolwich,

REFERRING to your communication of the 17th April last, upon the subject of painting the "Erebus" and "Terror," my Lords desire that you will state for their information how their lower masts were painted.

By command of their Lordships.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

No. 48.

Sir,

Woolwich Yard, 3 June 1852.

AGREEABLY to your minute on Captain Hamilton's letter of yesterday, we have to acquaint you that the lower masts of the "Erebus" and "Terror" were painted white when they left this port.

We are, &c.
(signed) *O. Lang*, Master Shipwright,
H. Chatfield, Assistant ditto.
(*Mr. Peake sick.*)

The Commodore Superintendent.

Submitted for the information of their Lordships.

Henry Eden, Commodore Superintendent.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 49.

Sir,

Quebec, 21 May 1852.

HAVING by the last mail acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, informing me of their Lordships' anxiety to obtain every information with regard to the ships seen on the ice by the brig "Renovation" on or about 20th April 1851, and their directions that I should immediately communicate with Mr. Lynch (a passenger in that vessel at the time the vessels were seen), pointing out two questions of importance to be submitted to him; but as I had, previous to the receipt of your letter, taken measures to have him examined at Prescott by the collector of customs of that place, submitting the necessary questions to be put to him, and requesting he would forward them to their Lordships by the mail, and also having shown Lieutenant Herbert John Todd's statement,