

does Captain Ommaney leave for the "Resolute?" Why, instead of proceeding up Wellington Channel as he had been directed, he tells Captain Austin he is going at once to Capes Hotham and Walker.

The 9th paragraph implies that Wellington Strait has first to be examined by the "Assistance," and then she was to proceed on to Cape Walker to search there.

No. 12.
Letter from Mr.
W. P. Snow to
Captain Hamilton,
R. N.

In the following paragraph, Griffith's Island is named as the place for depositing a "full account of proceedings;" and to this island I think especial attention would be well directed; for there, I conceive, important information might be gleaned. It will be to all parties up there a sort of central depôt for notices and information. Its position is prominently midway between Cape Walker and Wellington Strait, and consequently well suited as a medium of communication between the two, while it is accessible, on emergency, by boat from either, and could be reached from Melville Island. I imagine, therefore, that "the southern extremity of Griffith's Island," as mentioned by Captain Austin, will be the main point whence information of all the Arctic ships can be best gleaned. To it would Captain Ommaney proceed, and there leave "that full account of proceedings" and "change of plans" he was instructed to do by Captain Austin; and to it also would each of the discovery ships proceed, if possible; all being acquainted with Captain Austin's plans.

Before I conclude the remarks I have here ventured to make, I must again revert to Cape Riley, and call attention to Captain Ommaney's visit there. I believe it is generally supposed that that visit was not of very long duration, but such supposition, if ever formed, would be rather incorrect; I mean as to its being anything short of hours. For, examine the words of his notice, and it will be found, what struck me at the time I was transcribing it, and has always since, viz., that he probably spent the greater part of a day there. Let us look at this closely.

On Wednesday, August 21, at 6 a. m., the "Assistance" spoke the "Prince Albert" off Port Leopold, and then stood away for Cape Hurd with the wind north-easterly. The following day was calm and light airs, and I conclude, therefore, that she was off Cape Riley on the afternoon of the 22d. At Cape Riley the "Intrepid" was no doubt waiting for her, having been, as I should suppose, ordered to proceed thither while Captain Ommaney run over from Maxwell Bay on the night of the 20th to Port Leopold. The "Intrepid" would thus have arrived at Cape Riley on the 21st, and while awaiting the "Assistance," have been employed in searching the places mentioned in Captain Ommaney's after notice. And a most efficient search, no doubt, was made during that one day, still further increased upon the arrival of Captain Ommaney. When the "Assistance" rejoined the "Intrepid" on the 22d p. m., I should imagine at least a score or two of men were sent on shore, everywhere in the neighbourhood of Cape Riley to minutely examine; continuing, that examination through the night of the 22d and morning of the 23d, when probably Captain Ommaney, accompanied by his officers, finally landed upon the point to inspect and take away all that had been found.

It is clear, by the notice, that some time must have been employed; for we find that he landed, and then returned on board to write the notice.

I am inclined to think, therefore, that at least 24 hours, if not more, was spent by Captain Ommaney and Lieutenant-commander Cator at Cape Riley; and that a most minute examination, bringing to light more facts than we ourselves are aware of, but which will be fully detailed at Griffith's Island, was made at Cape Riley and Beechey Island.

I would now observe, that with regard to any hopes for the ensuing summer, and the prospect of obtaining additional, and, Heaven grant, happy information, from the vessels now in the Arctic seas, there appears to me two very favourable chances.

These are by sending a ship through Lancaster Sound, always keeping her return passage open, and by a land journey down the Mackenzie.

To see what are the chances on these two routes, I will briefly run over the last known facts connected with the Arctic squadron, and glance at their probable position, say next June.

The last known facts were these:—The "Assistance" and "Intrepid" were near Cape Hotham, among ice, but with apparent leads in various directions, and with a month of the usual working season still before them.