

Part III.  
Correspondence,  
&c. in reference to  
the Expedition.

Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar,  
22 November 1847.

Sir,

As part of the plan of the expedition which is to go in quest of the Arctic discovery ships from the Mackenzie River (of which 20 men and four boats, with their stores, went out to York Factory last summer, and are now supposed to be wintering at Cumberland House), it is necessary to provide canoe transport for myself and another officer to be ready, on the opening of the navigation, to proceed by Canada and Lake Superior to overtake the boats, which are also directed to resume their voyage as early as they can next spring. For this purpose one Canadian canoe is required for the passage of the Great Lakes, to be afterwards exchanged for two north canoes for the river navigation, and I have been informed that Governor Simpson has already directed the north canoes to be deposited at the proper locality on the route.

I have now to request that you will be pleased to move my Lords Commissioners to authorize me to write to Governor Sir George Simpson, or the Hudson's Bay Company's agent at La Chine, by the next packet (which sails on the 3d proximo) to engage 14 canoe men, being the usual complement of one large Canada canoe for that service; it is customary to engage these men some time before the navigation opens, and there is a difficulty in obtaining them if they are not inquired for in time. By travelling with as much rapidity as canoe voyaging admits, and carrying no more baggage than can be transported over the Portages in one trip, I hope to overtake the boats on Portage la Loche, on the banks of Clear-Water River, one of the affluents of the Mackenzie, in the beginning of July, and the Arctic Sea by the end of that month: the light canoe men will be employed in assisting to carry the luggage and boats over Portage la Loche, if that remains to be done when we arrive, and afterwards sent back in time to reach Canada by the close of summer. One Canada canoe is sufficient to take two passengers, with their personal baggage, and the few astronomical, meteorological and other instruments that we shall require, and to travel light, as it is termed; but an additional officer and baggage would require another canoe to enable us to cross the Portages in one trip. I mention this circumstance that their Lordships may be aware of greater means of transport being required should they hereafter think it necessary to add a third officer to the party; but I beg leave to say, that I by no means recommend such a measure, as two are amply sufficient, in my opinion, for the service.

The navigation of the Great Lakes opens towards the middle or end of April, and it will be necessary that we should leave England by the New York Packet, which sails on the 3d of March.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Richardson,*  
Med. Inspector.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty.

LETTER FROM Baron Brunnov to Captain Hamilton.

My dear Hamilton,

Ashburnham House, Thursday morning.

I NEED not tell you how anxious I am to afford every facility in my power towards the accomplishment of Lieutenant Moore's intended expedition. I have received as yet no communication on the subject from the Foreign Office; but in the meanwhile should Lieutenant Moore think proper to send me a statement as to the local information which Baron Wrangel, or any other competent person in his Imperial Majesty's service, might be enabled to afford, I shall not lose a single moment, but send it at once to Count Nesselrode, requesting him to forward to me the answer to those questions without any loss of time.

You are aware that we have in this country a very distinguished officer of the Imperial navy, Rear-Admiral Pontiatini; perhaps Lieutenant Moore might feel interest to make his acquaintance, and ask him some questions connected with his intended expedition. At all events permit me to say that I am entirely at your commands, and most happy to offer to you my best assistance in order to carry out and assist the views of the Admiralty.

Believe me, &c.

Captain Hamilton.

(signed) *Brunnov.*

Ashburnham