

Science are at least of equal value to a nation's welfare; that they have at least an equal claim upon her gratitude, and I am sure that they stand in no less need of encouragement and support.

Nor have I any fear that the study of Science should ever become too exclusive, that is, should make us too material, that it should overgrow and smother those more ethical, more elevating influences which are supposed to grow from the pursuit of literature and art.

In the first place, the demands of Science upon the patient and laborious exercise of thought are too heavy, too severe, to make it likely that it should ever become the favorite study of the many. In Art and Literature, the mind of the student is often comparatively passive, in a state of almost passive enjoyment of the banquet prepared for him by others; in those of Science the student must work hard for his intellectual fare. He cannot throw up his ears.

And let his little bark, attend not sail,
Pursue the triumph and partake the gale.

but he must tug at the oar himself, and take his full share in the labour by which his progress is to be made.

Nor, indeed, when I read the works of a Whewell, and a Herschel, and a Brewster, a Hugh Miller, or a Sedgwick, and a hundred others the glory of our days, can I see any reason for apprehending that the study of Science deprives the mind of imagination, the style of grace and beauty, or the character of its moral and religious tone, its elevation and refinement.

And, now, ladies and gentlemen, I have done. Once more assuming for a moment the character of a representative of this great town, I welcome you, the British Association, a second time to Liverpool. It is right that you and Liverpool should have frequent meetings, and should cultivate an intimate acquaintance. There is no place which can do more for science if she pleases; none has opportunities so extensive of becoming, by her ships and commercial agencies, by her enterprising spirit and connexion with every soil and climate, the missionary of science,—perhaps I should rather say, the importer of the raw material of facts and observations,—the exporter of the manufactured results arising from their scientific discussion. There is no town which owes more to science. Without science can her ves-sels stir without danger out of sight of land, or walk the waters independent of wind or tide? Without science would they have docks to shelter them, railroads to bring their produce to their docks, telegraphs to announce their movements, manufactures to freight them to distant lands? I do not believe that Liverpool is insensible to her obligations. This magnificent reception is one evidence of the feeling,—but a still better is to be found in her liberal support to such institutions as the Public Libraries and Museums, as her Collegiate Institution, and above all, to her magnificent Observatory.

Again I welcome the British Association for the Advancement of Science to the walls of Liverpool, fully assured as I am of the great benefits, direct and indirect, which their presence will confer upon the town, and of the deep sense which I know the inhabitants entertain of the honour conferred upon them by this repeated visit.

Fate of Sir John Franklin.

DR. RAE'S LETTER TO SIR GEORGE SIMPSON.

York Factory, 4th August, 1854.

MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,—Your several letters, public and private, of dates 15th June, and 1st December, 1853, and 13th and 16th June, 1854, were handed me on the 28th ultimo, on my reaching Churchill, and I rejoiced to learn that your health had benefited so much by your visit to the north.

Let me now allude to the Expedition affairs. I arrived here on the 31st ult. with my small party, in excellent health, but I am sorry to say without having effected our object. At the same time, information has been obtained and articles purchased from the natives, which places the fate of a portion, if not all of the then survivors of Sir John Franklin's miserable party beyond a doubt;—a fate the most deplorable—Death from starvation, after having had recourse to cannibalism as a means of prolonging life.

I reached my old quarters at Repulse Bay, on the 15th August, and preparations were immediately commenced for wintering. On the 1st September I explained to the men our position, the stock of provisions

we had on hand, (not more than 3 months rations), and the prospects we had of getting more, &c., &c., pointing out all the danger and difficulty of our position. All readily volunteered to remain, and our exertions to collect food and fuel went on with unabated energy. By the end of September, 109 deer, 4 musk ox, 53 brace of Ptarmigan, and one seal had been shot, and the nets produced 130 salmon.

Of the larger animals above enumerated, 19 deer and the musk ox were shot by myself, 21 deer by Mistegan, (the deer hunter), 14 by one of the men, 9 by Ouligbuck and 16 by the other four men. The migration of the deer terminated about the middle of October, and 25 animals were added to our stock.

On the 28th of October, the snow being sufficiently hard for building, we were happy to exchange our cold tents for the more comfortable shelter of the snowhouses. The winter was very severe, but the temperature in our snow-huts was never so low as in my winter quarters of 1846-7. Up to the 12th January we had nets set under the ice in the lakes, the nets were taken up on that date as they produced nothing.

On the 31st of March my spring journey commenced, but in consequence of gales of winds, deep and soft snow, and foggy weather, we made but very little progress. We did not enter Polly Bay until the 17th. At this place we met with Esquimaux, one of whom, on being asked if he ever saw white people, replied in the negative, but said that a large party, (at least 40 persons) had perished from want of food, some 10 or 12 days' journey to the westward. The substance of the information, obtained at various times and from various sources, was as follows:—

In the spring, four winters past, (spring, 1850) a party of white men, amounting to about forty, were seen travelling southward over the ice, and dragging a boat with them, by some Esquimaux who were killing seals on the north shore of King William's Land, which is a large island named Kei-ik-tak, by the Esquimaux. None of the party could speak the native language intelligibly, but, by signs the natives were made to understand that their ships or ship had been crushed by ice, and that the "whites" were now going to where they expected to find deer to shoot. From the appearance of the men, all of whom, except one officer, (chief), looked thin, they were then supposed to be getting short of provisions, and they purchased a small seal from the natives.

At a later date, the same season, but previous to the disruption of the ice, the bodies of about thirty white persons were discovered on the continent, and five on an island near it, about a long days' journey, (say 35 or 40 miles) to the N. W. of a large stream, which can be no other than Back's Great Fish River, (named by the Esquimaux, Out-koo-hi-ca-lik), as its description, and that of the low shore in the neighbourhood of Point Ogle and Montreal Island agree exactly with that of Sir George Back. Some of the bodies had been buried, (probably those of the first victims of famine), some were in a tent or tents, others under a boat that had been turned over to form a shelter, and several lay scattered about in different directions. Of those found on an island one was supposed to be an officer, as he had a telescope strapped over his shoulder and his double-barrelled gun lay underneath him.

From the mutilated state of many of the corpses, and the contents of the kettles, it is evident that our miserable countrymen had been driven to the last resource—cannibalism—as a means of prolonging life.

There appears to have been an abundant stock of ammunition, as the powder was emptied in a heap on the ground by the natives, out of the kegs or cases containing it, and a quantity of ball and shot was found below high water mark, having been left on the ice close to the beach. There must have been a number of watches, telescopes, compasses, guns, (several double-barrelled) &c., all of which appear to have been broken up, as I saw pieces of these different articles with the Esquimaux, and together with some silver spoons and forks, purchased as many as I could obtain. A list of the most important of these I inclose, with a rough pen-and-ink-sketch of the events, and initials on the forks and spoons. The articles themselves shall be handed over to the Secretary of the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company on my arrival in London.

None of the Esquimaux with whom I conversed had seen the "whites," nor had they ever been at the place where the dead were found, but had their information from those who had been there, and those who had seen the party when alive.