

Colville, which falls into the Arctic Sea about midway between the Mackenzie and Behring's Straits, and through their officers similar offers might be made to the western Esquimaux. We know from the Narrative of Sir John Franklin's discovery of that coast, and also from the subsequent voyage of Messrs. Dease and Simpson, that the Esquimaux who frequent the estuary of the Mackenzie meet those from Point Barrow, at an intermediate point, for the purposes of barter; and in this way intelligence of any interesting occurrence is conveyed along the coast. The Russian post on the Colville receives its supplies from a post in Norton Sound, where it would be easy for any vessel bound to Behring's Straits to land a communication. Mr. Rae, having been appointed to the charge of the Mackenzie River fur districts, will give a proper direction to the efforts of Indian hunters in that quarter.

As it is thought by some, whose opinion I highly value, that the Discovery Ships may have penetrated to the westward in so high a latitude as not to come within sight of the mainland, I may further suggest the desirableness of the examination of the western coasts of Banks's and Parry's Islands; but as this would require a ship expedition by way of Behring's Straits, I must leave the discussion of the practicability of such a scheme to the able executive officers who have navigated the Northern Seas.

Having thus, Sir, in a more diffuse manner than is usual in an official letter, but in accordance with my sense of the deep interest felt on the subject, not only by My Lords Commissioners, but by the nation at large, and I may add by the whole civilised world, recapitulated the proceedings of the Expedition, and detailed my opinions, I have only to add, that after the return of Mr. Rae and myself from the coast in September 1848, we devoted our leisure during the winter to observations on the magnetic intensity and force, with the uniplar magnetometer, and Dr. Lloyd's inclinometer, and kept hourly registers for fourteen hours each day of the declinometer, barometer, thermometer and wind vane.

In the beginning of May 1849, Mr. Bell and I, taking with us all the Europeans of the party then remaining at the fort, and such of the Canadians as were not to be employed with Mr. Rae on his summer expedition, crossed Great Bear Lake on the ice, and when the navigation opened in June, ascended the Mackenzie, and retraced my outward route. We were stopped by ice on Great Slave Lake till the 11th of July. On reaching Methy Portage, Mr. Bell resumed his duties in the Company's service, and I proceeded with the party to Norway House, where I discharged the Canadians, whose term of engagement had expired, and sent the seamen and sappers and miners to York Factory, there to embark in the Company's ship bound for England. I then continued my voyage to Canada in a canoe, and after passing two days at Montreal with Sir George Simpson in examining the charges for supplies furnished to the Expedition, proceeded to Boston for embarkation in the mail steamer.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Richardson*, Medical Inspector,
Commanding the Arctic Searching Expedition.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
&c. &c.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Fort Confidence, Great Bear Lake,
May 5, 1849.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of the Memorandum which I have issued to Mr. Rae, for his guidance in search of the Discovery Ships during the ensuing summer. Several reasons have combined to induce me to delegate this duty to Mr. Rae, in preference to endeavouring to execute it in person; and I hope that a consideration of them will induce their Lordships to approve of my having done so.