

the Committee, had they been sitting in my little cabin from the commencement of the voyage to the end of it, not an act had I to regret, but writing that letter.

20. Under this head I gladly avail myself of the opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments to the generous hearted Osborne for many useful suggestions as to the travelling equipments, also for a boat, his own property, kindly bestowed upon me; it being understood that I was not furnished with the travelling equipment put on board of Captain Austin's ships, but had everything to make on board my vessels, and by the time I returned from my second journey to the open water every bit of wood and iron was used up, so that this reason alone, letting alone any other, would have made it impossible for me to renew the exploration.

21, 22. Adam Beck's story of the loss of the ships and remainder of the crews. The treatment of this by the Committee has, I believe, excited the surprise of everybody who has read the Report. Surely if they thought it worth their while to notice such an absurd story, which Sir John Ross is the only man in the whole united squadron that believes, they were competent to express their contempt for it, instead of telling the Admiralty and the public that Sir John Ross still attaches much weight to it, referring to his evidence where he states as much. They should have asked if he gave much weight to it after the paper was exposed which he had witnessed and put his name to, and which the Committee refer to. The story was fully investigated at the time, and contradicted to the general satisfaction by my interpreter, Mr. Petersen, at the expense of 12 hours' delay in Baffin's Bay, which I willingly submitted to, though losing a favourable wind, and on rejoining Captain Austin's squadron found myself unkindly left behind, while the "Felix" and "Prince Albert" were taken in tow—a shabby return for the service I had been happy to render.

It must be left to Sir John Ross to explain why the convicted liar, Adam Beck (who says of himself, "Adam Beck no good—I lie,") should be believed in his old story, when made to swear it before a magistrate at Godhaven in Greenland. This "subsequent deposition," the Committee says, "was sent to Copenhagen for translation, and has not been returned." It is a pity their Lordships should not call for it and make it public here. I am indeed surprised the Committee should seriously suppose their Lordships capable of deferring another expedition in consequence of it not coming in time. I can only suppose it is out of compassion for another gallant brother officer.

23. In this article, which winds up the Report, the Committee decline to offer any suggestions for the relief of the missing ships in the direction of Behring's Strait, which is equivalent, as it appears to me, to informing their Lordships they need not do anything, or throwing away the responsibility from themselves; it is not for want of representations. Independent of my own expressed opinions in the memorandum I presented, in which I say that the Wellington Channel expedition would be greatly aided by vessels coming to meet them from Behring's Strait, there is the much superior authority of Captain Kellett; he is the best qualified person to judge, as he knows more of Behring's Straits than any other officer. Their Lordships know his opinion, that screw steamers should be sent to search for Sir John Franklin north of Behring's Strait. I would be loath to think it, but the Arctic Committee seems to regard it as their duty to recommend as little as they can.

This is the whole of the Report of the Arctic Committee. My Lords, out of respect to your Lordships, I do not say what I think of the Arctic Committee, the Report of the Arctic Committee, nor what I know that is thought of it by many of the best and noblest in the land.

I say to myself, they have sacrificed the whaling master to the post-captain, and that might be expected; but would it be thought that they would show no more feeling for their poor brother officers who are perishing for want of help, and stab to the heart that noble lady, whose sufferings and all she has done deserves to be honoured. I tell your Lordships that such an expedition as the Arctic Committee recommend had better stay at home; Sir John Franklin has gone far beyond the reach of it. It may take two or three years, even with steam, to get up to him, but I am persuaded he will be found, or some of his party, alive or dead, if we will only follow him up.

I entreat their Lordships to give their attention to what I say, and to give ample means and full discretionary power to the officer that has the command.

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