

as well as myself, had rejected every offer of any other kind, and my crews have been hanging on, spending their little savings in the expectation of going out again with me. Your Lordships must know that I had a claim to be employed when the next expedition was sent out. The country knows that it is to the whaling captain they owe their present hopes of the safety of Sir John Franklin, for if it had not been for him their Lordships would be as ignorant of the way he has gone as they were when I came back to say what I had done.

It is, I must say, an unfeeling injustice to give only to the navy the reward of following up my discoveries, and all the harder, because one of themselves, Captain Austin, declined following up the course I opened for him, which he was not willing to believe when I first communicated it, and neither did it himself, nor would help me to do so when I asked him for a steamer. It will now be for the country to judge of the question, and I have no doubt that, from the House of Commons down to the humblest of Her Majesty's subjects, judgment will be in favour of the man who has paved the way for others to reap the fruit which their Lordships have deprived me.

I very earnestly and respectfully beg your Lordships' attention to the following points, which I feel it necessary to bring forward in my defence, as, in addition to the Report of the Arctic Committee, which has so unfairly and cruelly treated me, your Lordships do me now a greater injustice by withholding the only compensation it was natural I should look to.

I objected strongly in my own mind to appearing before the Arctic Committee, as I did not think it fair that a mercantile captain should be judged by a committee entirely composed of two admirals and three captains, when my statements would differ from Captain Austin's; however, there was one officer in that Committee who I felt sure would see justice done me. I believed so at the time when I resolved to obey the summons. I have no complaint to make of my treatment while examined by the Committee, and I am grateful to the Chairman in particular for his kindness and courtesy. But, my Lords, could I have expected such a one-sided Report? Yet I restrained myself from expressing what I felt, because I thought I could afford that the commander of the late naval expedition was justified at my expense, but not afford to be thrown aside myself for the future. And here permit me, my Lords, to say, in answer to the observations that have been made, that I brought accusations against Captain Austin, and am therefore the cause of the Committee, that I said nothing whatever against Captain Austin, as your Lordships well know. I disdained to say a word against him in his absence, and I was home some weeks before him. It was not till he returned, and published in the "Times" some letters of mine, with your Lordships' sanction, which was meant to show that I was the cause of his premature return, and then I was called upon in self-defence to write to your Lordships, saying how unfair it was to myself, as I had no opportunity of making any explanation of the circumstances necessary to a right understanding of it, and that I supposed it was meant to show that I was to be responsible for Captain Austin's return home; and likewise, that I had before met with unfair and unkind treatment from Captain Austin, which I felt sure some of his own officers could bear witness to. I consider that when Captain Austin published the correspondence in the "Times," it was he who was the accuser, and I became the accused party. If their Lordships had answered me that there was no intention to make me appear answerable for Captain Austin's return, and give me leave to publish their reply, I should have been satisfied, and said no more. But instead of this, I was told that I should "have an opportunity of making such explanations as I wished of the late proceedings," which was followed by my being called up for examination before the Arctic Committee.

The first thing I did when summoned before the Committee, was to say I did not wish to bring any accusations against Captain Austin, but only to be cleared of the charge which I thought the publication of those letters threw upon me, without any explanation of the circumstances. The officers of that Committee well know that I repeatedly told them I did not wish to bring any accusations against Captain Austin, if they would only satisfy me on this point. This fact is alluded to, though my words were not taken down, in the Blue Book (p. 125). Neither did I bring forward any evidence against Captain Austin which it might have been unpleasant for his officers to give, and which might compromise them, nor were any questions asked by the Committee which could tell in my favour. I must say that great care was taken throughout not to bring
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