

and to inform their Lordships that I entirely agree with the Danish Inspector-general that there is no chance of deciding the question of the missing ships but by the examination I have recommended.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Ross*,
Rear-Admiral.

To Captain W. A. B. Hamilton, R.N.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure to No. 8.

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Danish Inspector-General of Greenland touching the Fate of Sir *John Franklin's* Expedition.

Montebello, Denmark,
5 March 1852.

My dear Sir,

Yours of the 26th ult. I had the pleasure of receiving this day.

I am really both surprised and vexed that nothing yet has been decided on. The season is already far advanced, and it is time Government should decide whether they will indeed search after Sir John Franklin in earnest, or if they intend to rest satisfied with sending the expedition under Sir Edward Belcher in a direction where others have failed in tracing the unfortunate voyagers farther than Beechey Island, and where the chances are a thousand to one that the expedition will return as wise as they leave. I really do hope the Government will pay less attention to the representations of others, and listen somewhat more to the voice of reason. The people of England are strangely infatuated as regards this question.

The more I think, and the more I put this and that together, the more convinced I am that Sir John Franklin never committed such an act of madness as to push his way farther on, after leaving Beechey Island, having most likely at the time scarcely provisions enough left for the space of time it had taken him to reach this place. Don't tell me about his procuring, and with ease too, such a lot of provisions as the officers of the different expedition ships seem to lay such weight upon. I know the country too well for that; but even suppose they could get an inexhaustible supply of birds, had he salt enough to cure such a number? Still an Englishman is no Esquimaux, and no one but an Esquimaux or a Russian can live and do his duty on board any length of time on such a diet, in such a climate. Sir John was too old a hand in those regions not to know that, and it is my firm belief that having made up his mind to return to England, he was lost on his home passage.

Should you consider my presence in England likely to forward the cause, pray let me know, as I take a very deep interest in the solution of the question. I wish to Heaven that your next would contain the joyful intelligence that Government had at last decided in your favour, as I feel confident that it will be the only expedition with any chance of success.

I remain, &c.

(signed) *L. Platon.*

— No. 9. —

Sir,

Admiralty, 26 March 1852.

I HAVE received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 23d instant, with its enclosures, respecting the further search after Sir John Franklin's expedition.

I am, &c.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Rear-Admiral Sir John Ross, c. b.