

lower part of Wellington Strait, and remained fast, though diminished in breadth, when last visited on the 24th of July, 1851. Captain Penny is of opinion that open water existed beyond it all the winter.

With respect to traces of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, beyond Cape Spencer none whatever were observed by Captain Penny's travelling parties, except a small piece of drift wood, which had been recently charred, and had been exposed to little or no friction subsequent to the operation of fire.* This was found by Mr. Goodsir in Disappointment Bay, in latitude $75^{\circ} 36' N.$, longitude $96^{\circ} W.$; and I consider it to be certainly a relic of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, as these coasts are not now visited by natives, and this piece of charred wood could not have been water-borne from any great distance. It must have travelled, however, some short way subsequent to its having been exposed to the action of fire; for if it had been the remains of a fire kindled on the spot, other fragments of charcoal would have been found lying beside it. Franklin would, undoubtedly, during the spring passed in Beechey Bay, send out a party up Wellington Sound, as he would never let the opportunity escape of examining, as far as he was able to do, a route that might influence his future movements; and as the course to the westward within the reach of pedestrian parties was known, the resources of the two ships would be turned to the undiscovered way, commencing in their vicinity. That such exploring party went beyond the limits of Captain Penny's researches, I infer

* A piece of elm board that had been originally coated on one side with mineral pitch or tar, and after long exposure to the weather split by an axe, was too much weathered even on the most recent surface to come within the date of Sir John Franklin's Expedition. It was found on Baillie Hamilton's Island, and must have drifted a very long way.