

shore, and explore that coast to the north-west, previous to starting, in the spring. Upon every accessible capo or hill, he should embrace every opportunity of erecting a cairn or cross, and deposit a notice of his intentions, in a bottle or canister, at twenty feet magnetic north from the pole or cairn; and as they would take out an alphabet made of iron, every opportunity would be taken to burn the ship's name, with date and position, upon as much drift wood as could be spared, and thrown overboard. It was his intention to use every endeavour to get to the eastward; but, failing in that, by the situation of the land or condition of the ice, then he should make to the north, in the belief that if Sir John Franklin had arrived in or about the 150th meridian, and had been there arrested by land, he would probably try to make to the west in a higher latitude. That course he hoped to be able to follow year by year till he had sufficiently explored that part of the world which those competent to judge believed him to have reached. He humbly prayed that Almighty God would give him strength to perform the task which he had so much at heart; and if he was so unfortunate as not to meet with any traces of them, he should be enabled at least to return to his country with satisfactory proofs of their not having reached that part, and the happy consciousness of having done his duty.

"Captain Beatson resumed his seat amidst loud and continued cheering.

"Lieutenant Pim,* as one deeply interested in the success of the expedition, wished to call the attention of Captain Beatson to the abundant supply of vegetable life in the Arctic regions, where he would find eight different kinds of plants, one of which closely resembled potatoes, and would be found very useful in the prevention of scurvy."

The following letter is from the intrepid explorer Captain Penny. It is important, not only as containing the evidence of the person who last spoke the *EREBUS*, but also from the cheering assurance it affords us of the providence and foresight evinced by Franklin whilst yet on the very threshold of his enterprise.

If the commander of the expedition anticipated the possibility of his efforts in the Arctic Seas extending to a term of seven years, surely it is premature, while a portion of that interval remains, to despair of his safety.

CAPTAIN PENNY TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES".

"Aberdeen, Dec. 20, 1851.

"SIR,—I have lately been at *Peterhead* (my native place), and have learnt a very important fact from my old acquaintance Capt. Martin, who, when commanding the whaler *ENTERPRISE* in 1845, was the last person to communicate with Sir John Franklin.

"The *ENTERPRISE* was alongside the *EREBUS* in *Melville Bay*, and Sir John invited Capt. Martin to dine with him, which the latter declined doing, as the wind was fair to go south. Sir John, while conversing with Capt. Martin, told him that he had five years' provisions, which he could make last seven; and his people were busily engaged in salting down birds, of

* This gentleman's projected expedition in search of Franklin via *Siberia* (an account of which will be found at p. 41), has been abandoned. The difficulties presented by the overland journey were, in the opinion of the Russian authorities, insuperable. Lieutenant Pim has returned, therefore, from *St. Petersburg*, and the residue (£362) of the funds with which he was furnished has been applied in aid of Captain Beatson's enterprise.