

— No. 2. —

COPY of a LETTER from Captain *Hamilton*, Secretary of the Admiralty, to Mr. *James Saunders*, Master, commanding Her Majesty's Ship "North Star."

Sir,

Admiralty, 10 April 1850.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you,

1. That Sir James Ross having returned to England in the month of November last, without having discovered any traces of the missing expedition under Sir John Franklin's orders, and the necessity for the stores and provisions with which he was charged being deposited as directed being all the more urgent, my Lords can only trust that you have been able to land them accordingly.

2. That as our last Reports from you were dated 19th July 1849, lat. 74° 3', long. 59° 40' W., the anxiety on the part of their Lordships to receive further intelligence of your proceedings is great; and they can therefore only hope, in the event of this despatch reaching you, and of your not having succeeded in affording succour to any of Sir John Franklin's party, that it may find you returning with Her Majesty's ship under your command to England.

3. And that in order that you may be in full possession of all that has occurred, or that has been done since your departure, relative to the relief of Sir John Franklin, you are herewith furnished with a printed Return which will put you in complete possession of the state of the case; and to which my Lords have only to add, that four ships under the command of Captain Austin, two of them being auxiliary steam vessels, are now fitting at Woolwich, in addition to the two vessels under Captain Penny's orders, and by which this despatch is sent, for the purpose of continuing the search after Sir John Franklin's expedition (irrespective of private expeditions from this country and the United States); and that as supplies of stores, especially coals, would be most needful for these vessels, as an auxiliary, you are to land at the Whale Fish Islands, or at Disco, whatever proportion of coals or provisions you consider you can with propriety spare, returning without loss of time to England.

I am, &amp;c.

Mr. James Saunders, (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*  
Master Commanding H. M. S. "North Star."

— No. 3. —

COPY of ORDERS from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Mr. *William Penny*, of the Ship "Lady Franklin," in charge of an Expedition to the Arctic Seas, dated 11 April 1850.

By the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, &c. &c.

1. Her Majesty's Government having determined that further endeavours shall be made to trace the progress of Her Majesty's ships "Erebus" and "Terror," under the command of Sir John Franklin, and to resume the search after that expedition; and having resolved to employ you in the command of the two vessels, the "Lady Franklin" and "Sophia," which have been equipped for that service; you are hereby required and directed, so soon as the said vessels shall be in all respects ready for sea, to proceed with them with all due dispatch to Davis's Strait.

2. In entrusting you with the above command, we do not deem it advisable to furnish you with minute instructions as to the course you are to pursue. In accepting your offer of service, regard has been had to your long experience in arctic navigation, and to the attention you had evidently paid to the subject of the missing ships. We deem it expedient rather that you should be instructed in