

translation arrived from Germany, and which is believed to be true by the Danish authorities.

I request also you will be pleased to inform their Lordships, that Mr. Lewis Platon, an intelligent Danish gentleman, who had been sent to Greenland to audit and inspect accounts, has volunteered to accompany me, and that we are both of opinion, and confident that we should be able to put an end to the question, which will not be the case by the plan recommended by the Arctic Committee.

In order to perform this service, I should require two small vessels (the "Lady Franklin" and "Sophia") and a small steamer. I should have no occasion to sail before the end of May, and I would return about the 1st of November in this year.

Lastly, I beg you will inform their Lordships, that on purpose to perform this service, I shall most willingly hoist my pendant as a captain, instead of hoisting my flag as a rear-admiral.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Ross,*
Rear-Admiral.

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

— No. 3. —

Sir,

Admiralty, 22 January 1852.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 17th instant, placing your services at the disposal of my Lords in the event of a further expedition being fitted out for the Arctic seas, I am to convey to you their Lordships' thanks for the offer you have made them, but at the same time to acquaint you that they are not prepared to avail themselves of your proposal.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Parker.*

Rear-Admiral Sir John Ross, C. B.

— No. 4. —

Sir,

North West Castle, Stranraer,
17 February 1852.

I HAVE the honour to send you herewith a letter, with which I have been favoured by Mr. Lewis Platon, the intelligent Danish gentleman whose acquaintance I made at Holsteinborg, in Greenland (touching the probable fate of the missing expedition, under the command of Sir John Franklin), and which I request you will be pleased to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for their Lordships further information on that important subject. See Enclosure to No. 4.

I beg to add, it is my firm belief, that the interpreter, Adam Beck, has sworn to the truth as stated in my former communication, and in the letter from Mr. Platon, forwarded through Admiral Houston Stewart to their Lordships. See No. 2, p. 2.
See No. 1, p. 1.

Although I do not put the slightest credit in the report of Mr. Penny, touching the Wellington Channel, I have no desire that it should not be more fully examined, while it is evident that if my proposal for an investigation of the truth of Adam's Beck's assertion is successful in deciding the fate of the missing ships, it would lead to the early recall of the searching expeditions both to the westward and eastward, and thereby save a considerable expense to Government, and probably many valuable lives, as such an expedition as I have proposed in my letter of the 17th ultimo, need not leave England before the 1st of June, and would return at the latest by the 1st of November, and as the vessels I recommended are nearly ready, the additional expense would be trifling. See No. 2, p. 2.

Their Lordships knowing the deep interest the gallant Franklin took in my rescue under similar circumstances, and the sacred promise I made to him on his departure, will I am confident pardon my zeal in his cause, even if the steps I have taken do not meet with their Lordships' high approbation.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Ross,*
Rear-Admiral.

Captain W. A. B. Hamilton, R. N.,
Secretary of the Admiralty,
&c. &c. &c.