

June, 1847, and a third entry, by Captain Crozier, bears the mournful record of the desertion of the ships on the 22nd of April, 1848. But oh, how thankful are those who loved Franklin to know with certainty that he died in peace, surrounded by his comrades and friends, and that he lay down to his rest, as it were in the arms of victory. For the record found in the cairn places beyond the possibility of dispute the fact that Franklin and his party were the discoverers of the North-West Passage; from the data given under their own (dying) hands.

And though later in point of time, and in a higher latitude, Sir Robert McClure also filled up a narrow gap between previous discoveries, and so traced out a North-West Passage by travelling over ice that has always proved a barrier to ships, yet, says Franklin's biographer and comrade, Sir John Richardson, "If ever commercial enterprise endeavours to force a North-West Passage by steam, the route chosen will undoubtedly, be that of Franklin and his party,"—that route, of which as he adds, "they forged the last links with their lives."\*

---

\* NOTE.—These last words form part of the inscription on the monument erected to Franklin's memory at Hobarton, Tasmania. "It is to be regretted," writes one who has studied the subject in all its bearings, "that an attempt should have been made, since the recent death of Sir R. McClure, to bestow on him the credit of being the discoverer of the North-West Passage. The attempt has failed, as was to be expected, since truth and justice *will* prevail. Franklin is the people's and the children's hero."