

seeing there could be no possibility of advancing further during that season (after which they would only have one year's provisions), that they had, on their attempt to return home round the north end of the Pack, been wrecked on the east coast of Baffin's Bay, and, in short, that the report of Adam Beck is in every respect true.

Adam Beck was discharged on the 30th of August on our arrival at Godhaven. Enclosure No. 1. contains his deposition on oath written in the Esquimaux language; enclosure No. 2. is his account current, copies of bills in liquidation of his wages and supplies for the ships.

Truly thankful for the blessings of health and strength by which, through Divine Providence, we have been enabled to perform the arduous duties we undertook, it is with feelings of unqualified satisfaction I have to inform you that the "Felix," not having met with the slightest damage, has safely arrived here this day, without the loss of a man, and with the whole crew, as well as myself, in perfect health.

I have, &c.

JOHN ROSS, Rear-Admiral.

No. 7.

The SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY to Sir JOHN ROSS.

Sir,

Admiralty, 28th September 1851.

WITH reference to that passage of your letter of the 25th instant, addressed to Mr. Barclay, Hudson's Bay House, wherein you state your opinion that Sir J. Franklin remained in the winter quarters at Beechey Island until September 1846, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will furnish their Lordships with the grounds on which you found that opinion.

I have, &c.

W. A. B. HAMILTON.

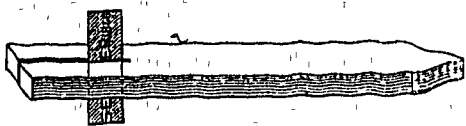
No. 8.

Sir JOHN ROSS to the SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Sir,

267, Strand, 29th September 1851.

IN reply to your letter informing me that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty request to be informed on what grounds I had formed my opinion that Sir John Franklin had remained in his winter quarters at Beechy Island until September 1846, I have to acquaint you that on the 6th of September 1850, three days after all the other vessels had left Beechy Island, a piece of English elm, four feet nine and a quarter inches long, four by three



inches square, having a saw-cut on the one end, in which was inserted a plate of tin, with "September 1846" painted on it in white letters on a black ground, was found by Adam Beck, the Esqui-

maux interpreter, who (I distinctly saw with my spyglass) had it on his shoulder as he came from the hill where he found it and approached the beach. The "Felix" was then getting under weigh, and under circumstances that required my attention, and obliged me to postpone inquiry respecting it, not doubting that *all* had been brought on board; and it was not until the next day, after we had succeeded with difficulty to cross the Wellington Channel and reached Barlow Inlet, that I learned it was found lying beside a cairn of stones on a hill north of the graves, and that the piece of *tin*, having fallen from the saw-cut unobserved and into the snow was not on board; but Adam Beck declared that there was painted on it "September 1846," and as he has since deposed before the magistrate at Godhaven to the truth of his assertion, I have not the smallest doubt of its being true, although it rests entirely on his evidence.

In my opinion this fact accounts for no documentary notices having been found in the cairns erected by the "Erebus" and "Terror," for Sir John Franklin, if detained at his winter quarters until that time, when all hope of advancing