

books and journals to that river, must explain away the charge of common humanity which such an hypothesis involves, when they appeared not to have had time to turn over, much less to bury, their perishing comrades.

Beyond the western extremity of King William's Land, the Esquimaux appeared not to have travelled, and from thence to Cape Felix the beach was strewn with the wreck of that disastrous retreat of Franklin's people, of which we endeavoured in an earlier chapter to convey some idea.

There were one or two observations made by Captain M'Clintock and his Lieutenant that are full of deep meaning to those conversant with Arctic exploration. In the first place, none of those coloured tins, in which preserved fresh meat is usually packed, were found anywhere along the trail of Franklin's crews, even at what appeared to be a station for magnetical observation in 1847, at which officers and men must necessarily have been encamped for a considerable period. All relics of their food, such as bones, indicated that *salt meat*