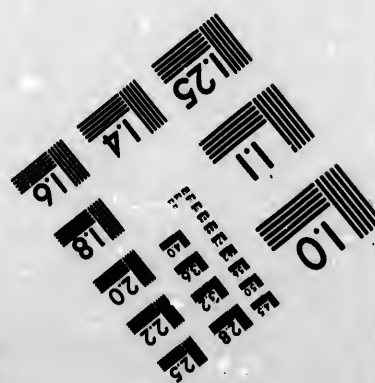
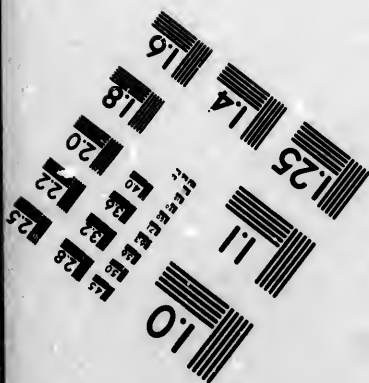
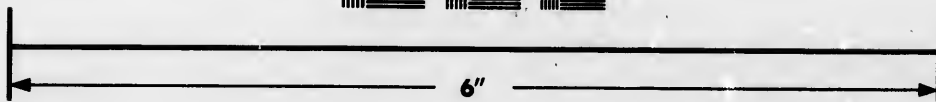
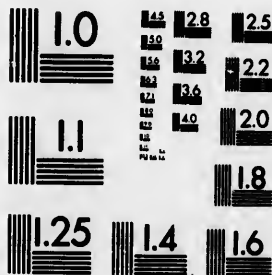


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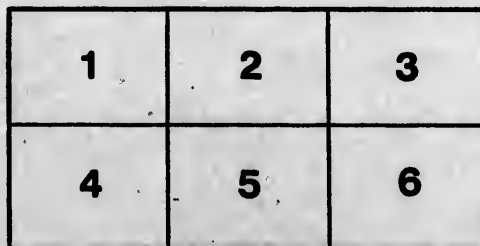
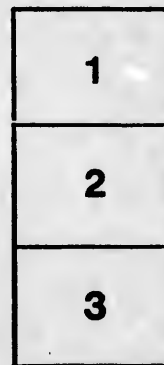
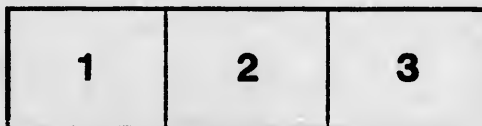
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THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.

TO HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

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A LETTER OF APPEAL,

BY

DR. KING, M. D.

London :

JOHN CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1860.

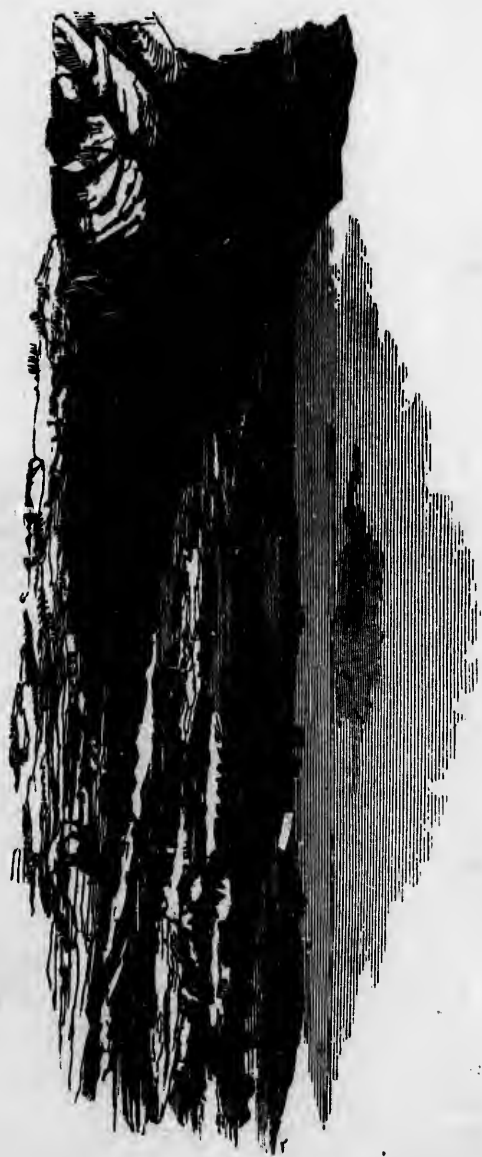
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PRINTED BY J. MILES AND CO. WARDOUR STREET, OXFORD ST.

DEATH SPOT OF THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.

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DEATH SPOT OF THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.



STREET, OXFORD ST.

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"Turn to Dr. King's Conjectural Map of '45, by which he sustained his views of the position of The Franklin Expedition, and to the subsequent Admiralty Chart of '50, and mark how wonderfully his geographical arguments were proved true by the vouchers of the Admiralty itself."—*Sun*, 3 Oct. '59.

X

ADMIRALTY CHART.
DR KING'S CONJECTURES VERIFIED 1859.

NOTE B.

"Victoria Land, Banks Land, and Wellaston Land, are portions of an extensive Island or an Archipelago of Islands."

Dr King's Letter to Sir J. Barrow 8 Jan. 1846



Behring's Straits

● Position of Franklin's ships

+ Traces of lost expedition

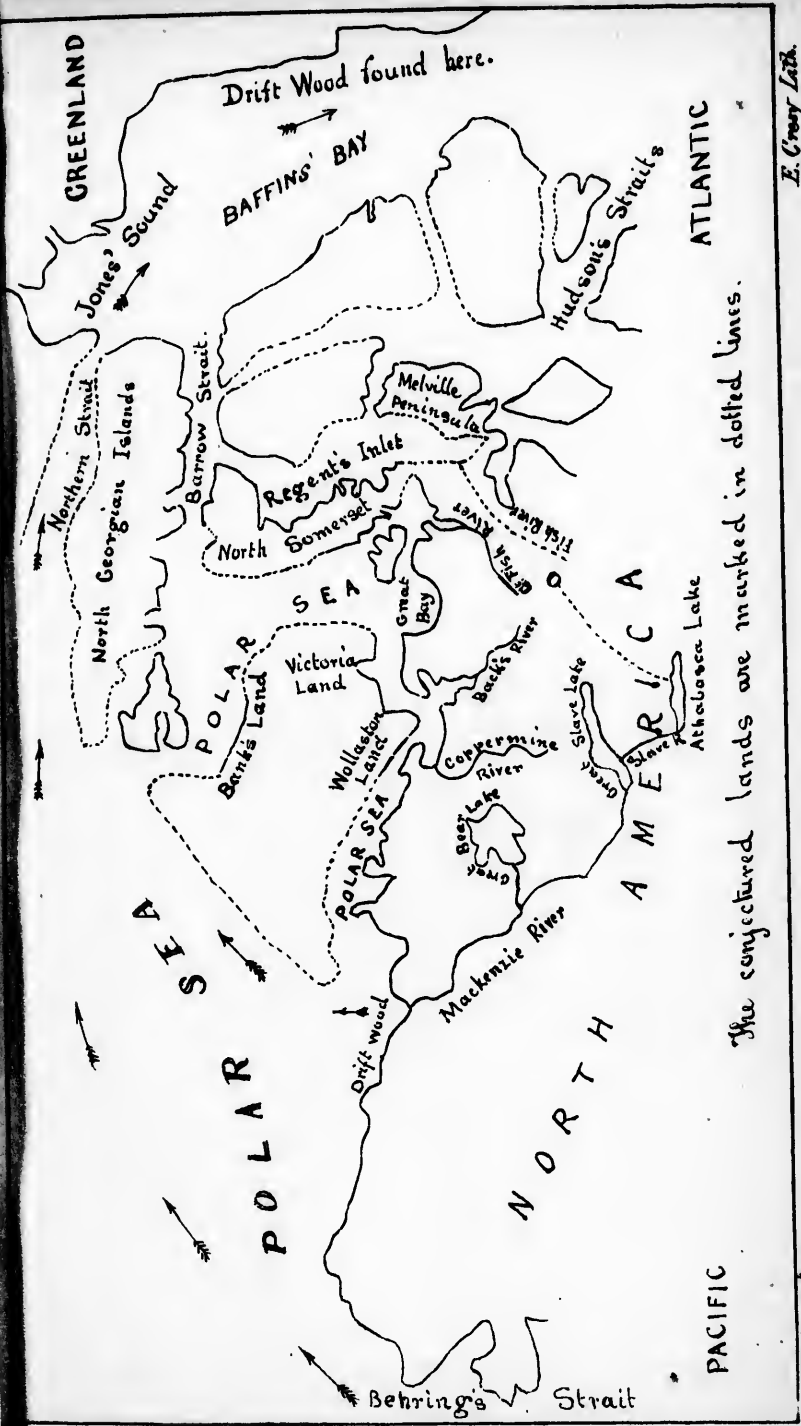


PACIFIC

ATLANTIC

● Position of Franklin's ships

+ Traces of lost expedition



The conjectured lands are marked in dotted lines.

H. King del.

E. Gray Lith.

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17, Savile Row, 20 January '60.

MY LORD DUKE,—I venture to solicit your Grace's most earnest attention to the following proposal for the despatch of a party upon a land journey for the purpose of completing the search for the remains, and possible survivors, of The Franklin Expedition.

As your Grace may enquire upon what grounds I address you, in reference to a subject which has been dealt with by another department, I venture to observe that almost all Polar Land Journeys, properly so called, that have been despatched under the command of officers appointed by the Crown, have been undertaken under directions emanating from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. And in now pressing upon your Grace the expediency of a further search for the remains of The Franklin Expedition, to be accomplished by means of a land journey from the continent of America, I do not propose that your Grace should assume a responsibility that has not been accepted by former Secretaries of State, under circumstances of far less pressing importance than the present.

Before submitting the particulars of the

plan I am about to propose, as well as the grounds upon which I urge its adoption, I think it but right to lay before your Grace such particulars respecting my services in connexion with the Polar regions, as shall show that my plan is not that of a crude speculator, but is based upon the experience acquired by actual service in the precise locality where some remains of Franklin's companions have been found; and it is now certain, if Her Majesty's Government had accepted my offer, *four times made* in '47, and repeated in '48, to proceed to that very spot, a large portion of The Franklin Expedition would be *alive and at home*.

In the years '33-5 I was the medical officer to the party despatched upon the Polar Land Journey in search of Sir John Ross, and, for a considerable period I commanded that party, which descended Great Fish River, and explored a portion of the coast of America at the mouth of that stream.

The knowledge I then acquired led me to entertain views, in regard to the position of the North-west Passage, which were at variance with the opinions expressed by other Polar travellers, but which have since

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In proof of this statement I may observe that in the year '45 I published a conjectural chart, enclosed herewith and marked A, showing the position in which I then assumed the existence of a North-west passage. The accuracy of my views in that respect is evidenced by the accompanying reduced copy marked B, of the present Admiralty chart, showing that the passage is situated in the position which I assigned to it, fifteen years since.

Within two years after the departure of the Erebus and Terror under the command of Sir John Franklin, in the year '45, I pointed out to Her Majesty's Government the position in which those ships were then probably ice-bound or lost, the direction of the journey which, in my opinion, the crews would thereupon take, and the only certain and available way of conveying succour to them, by means of a land journey down Great Fish River and through the country, with which I was familiar.

Most unfortunately, as subsequent events proved, my views had no weight with Her

Majesty's Government, my offers of service were declined. Year after year, with occasional intervals, I repeated them, and urged the inexpensive nature of the journey I proposed. Year after year, while fruitless expeditions by sea were dispatched at a cost of about £.2,000,000, my offers were declined. The nature of these offers will be perceived upon an inspection of the following chronological table of events, in connexion with The Franklin Expedition, which also shows the remarkable manner in which my views have now been proved to be correct, by the discoveries of Rae, Anderson, and M'Clintock.

In this table the several events are noticed in consecutive order, according to the dates when they occurred, but it must be borne in mind that the particular events, of which the notices are here italicised, were not known in this country until some years subsequently to the periods, when they respectively took place.—

1845.

The Franklin Expedition composed of the ships Erebus and Terror, sail in search of the North-west Passage.

1845.

*The Expedition winters at Beechy Island.*1846. *September 12.**The Expedition is beset in the ice, and winters 15 miles north-west of King William Land.*1847. *June 10.*

I offer to Her Majesty's Government to lead a party by Great Fish River to the western land of North Somerset,¹ which I assign as the position of the missing Expedition.

1847. *June 11.**Sir John Franklin dies on board his ship 15 miles north-west of King William Land.*1847. *November 11.*

I inform Her Majesty's Government that, "To the Western land of North Somerset, where, I maintain, Sir John Franklin will be found, the Great Fish River is the direct and only route," and I offer to lead a party by Great Fish River, to reach that land, before the close of the summer of '48.

¹ King William Land is an island lying off the western land of North Somerset.

8. THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION

1847. *December 8.*

I urge the same views on Her Majesty's Government.

1847. *December 16.*

I urge the same views on Her Majesty's Government.

1848. *February.*

I repeat the proposal to reach the Western Land of North Somerset, by Great Fish River, before the close of the summer of '48.

1848. *March 3.*

I repeat the proposal to reach the Western Land of North Somerset, by Great Fish River, before the close of the summer of '48.

1848. *April 25.*

One hundred and five men land from the deserted ships Erebus and Terror, upon the western coast of King William Land, and commence their march for Great Fish River.

1850. *February 18.*

I inform Her Majesty's Government that,
" All that has been done by way of search
" since February '48, tends to draw attention
" closer and closer to the Western Land of
" North Somerset, as the position of Sir John
" Franklin, and Great Fish River as the

8.
Her Majesty's

"high road to reach it," and I repeat the same proposal as before.

16.
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1850. *Spring of the Year.*

Forty white men are seen by the Esquimaux on King William Land, and the bodies of thirty-five were subsequently seen also by the Esquimaux near the mouth of Great Fish River.

uch the Western
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1855. *August.*

Mr. Anderson, the leader of a party despatched down Great Fish River by the Hudson Bay Company, at the expense of Her Majesty's Government, finds traces of the missing Expedition, at Montreal Island.

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summer of '48.

1856. *January 23.*

I point out the unsatisfactory nature of the search made by Mr. Anderson and I offer for the fifth time, to Her Majesty's Government, to conduct a search down Great Fish River.

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1856.

Traces are seen, by Indians, of fresh encampments of ten or twelve men, near the locality where Mr. Anderson turned back in '55.

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1856. *December 8.*

I propose in conjunction with Commander Bedford Pim, R.N. a joint sea and land search of the mouth of Great Fish River.

1857. *February 15.*

I make a further proposal to a similar effect.

Upon a perusal of the foregoing table your Grace will observe that *in the year '47 I four times* implored Her Majesty's Government to undertake a search by a land journey down Great Fish River to King William Land, that if any of these proposals had been acceded to, the survivors of the Expedition, who deserted their vessels and commenced their journey over the ice, in the spring of '48, would have been met, in their passage to the south, by the party in search, and that some of them at least, together with the records of the Expedition would have been saved, and the enormous cost of subsequent Expeditions would have been spared; also, that if my proposals of '48 and '50 had been carried into effect, there is a strong probability that some survivor might even then have been found and saved from a horrible death; and further, that the information that first reached England as to the fate of the Expedition, was obtained as the result of land journeys despatched by the same route,

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and in the same economical manner as I had urged although with such little success.

I have entered into these details for the purpose of showing that I am justified in expressing my opinions respecting the missing Expedition, its possible survivors, and its still to be discovered records, with the authority of a traveller, whose views, hitherto expressed upon the same subject have been incontestably found to be correct, although they were met, at the time when they were promulgated, with the determined opposition of the advisers of Her Majesty's Government. The question now for consideration is as follows, viz.—

Is there such a reasonable probability of the discovery either of any survivors of the missing Expedition, or of any more complete record of their proceedings than has been already found, as to justify a further search?

I answer in the affirmative and beg to submit the grounds upon which my opinion is based.

Up to the present moment *we know* the following to be facts because they are evidenced either by the written statement of the officers of the Erebus and Terror or

by those of M'Clintock and Anderson, viz.,—that one hundred and five survivors of the Erebus and Terror deserted their ships, and landed 2 April, '48, at Point Victory on King William Land, and started for Great Fish River, a distance of about two hundred miles.

And that the remains of three, out of those one hundred and five survivors, and various relics of clothing &c., have been found at different spots upon the line of march referred to.

It has also been stated by the Esquimaux that about forty white men (being evidently some of the one hundred and five survivors) died on King William Land, at Point Ogle and on Montreal Island, in the embouchure of Great Fish River, in or about the year '50.

And it has been asserted in the Hudson Bay settlements, that the Indians came upon the fresh traces of an encampment of ten or twelve white men somewhere near the mouth of Great Fish River so lately as '56.

Taking these several statements for what they are respectively worth, it must next be observed that the line of march of the one hundred and five survivors is known to have

and Anderson, and five survivors, or deserted their ship, '48, at Point Barrow Land, and started on a distance of about

of three, out of five survivors, and &c., have been upon the line of

by the Esquimaux (being evidently and five survivors) at Point Ogle and the embouchure of the year '50. In the Hudson Bay Indians came upon a party of ten or more near the mouth of the river as '56.

arrangements for what it must next be the march of the one known to have

commenced at Point Victory,—to have extended southwards from thence along the western shore of King William Land, across Simpson Strait to Point Ogle, and down the embouchure of Great Fish River to Montreal Island and the mouth of Great Fish River. The searches near this extent of country have been as follows:

Mr. Anderson, in the summer of '55, descended Great Fish River from the Hudson Bay Settlements, examined Montreal Island and the coast of the continent in the vicinity, and the result may be summed up in very few words. Despatched by the Hudson Bay Company, with insufficient means and information, he was unable to converse with the Esquimaux because he had no interpreter; he did not know there was a particular hiding place in Montreal Island, called King Cache,² that was known to Franklin, and where the leaders of the lost Expedition, would probably deposit their records. He had no proper map, and being contented with a cursory examination of Montreal Island and the coast about Point

² "Narrative of Discoveries on North Coast of America," by Thomas Simpson, p. 370.

Ogle, he never crossed to King William Land, or made further search in the line of march which we now know to have been taken by the fated one hundred and five. He found a few relics, purchased others from the Esquimaux, and after spending seven or eight days about the mouth of Great Fish River hastened homeward with all speed.

Captain M'Clintock in the spring of '59 while his vessel the Fox, despatched by Lady Franklin and a few friends at their private cost, was frozen up in Bellot Strait, equipped several sledge parties and started southward from that place for the purpose of examining King William Land, he went over the whole of the known line of march of The Franklin Expedition, but *his search was made while the surface was buried in ice and snow*, beneath which the records of the Expedition still lay buried, and it is matter for surprise, not that he did not succeed in recovering more detailed and explicit accounts of the fate of the Expedition, but that he was able to bring home even the *meagre information* that he obtained as to the departure of the one hundred and five survivors from Point

to King William search in the line of snow to have been hundred and five. purchased others from spending seven or both of Great Fish and with all speed.

the spring of '59 ox, despatched by few friends at their up in Bellot Strait, parties and started pace for the purpose am Land, he went down line of march tion, but *his search ce was buried in ice* ch the records of buried, and it is t that he did not more detailed and e fate of the Ex- was able to bring *information* that he arture of the one rivors from Point

Victory on their march to Great Fish River.

Of the whole known line of march therefore extending over a distance of about two hundred miles, the portion near the mouth of Great Fish River was imperfectly examined by Anderson in the summer of '55, and the country about Great Fish River was only seen by M'Clintock, when the ground was covered with ice and snow, and where—as he himself admits—many remains may have been hidden from the sight of his party, by these natural causes.

The nature of the remains that I still believe to be recoverable, are easily set forth.

In the first place, it is to be assumed that the logs of the Erebus and Terror were left on board when those vessels were deserted, and that extracts of them were carried off by the retreating crews, for deposit in some secure place on shore. Now it must be remembered, that M'Clintock—probably from want of time and provisions—never visited the wrecks of the Erebus and Terror, nor have any extracts of the logs been found in the course of the searches hitherto made.

But there is no satisfactory evidence that

these wrecks—or at least one of them—are not still above water, nor can it be denied that one of their logs is possibly recoverable, nor that a summer search of King William Land may be the means of obtaining documents that would throw full light on the disastrous fate of our unhappy countrymen.

Upon the question as to the possibility of any individual member of the expedition being alive, I venture to submit a few facts to your Grace.

The arguments against the existence of any survivors, are to the following effect, viz.

1. That the country about Great Fish River is inhospitable, and produces very little to support life; and that a civilised man cannot succeed in procuring food in the same manner as an Esquimaux, and

2. That the various communities of Esquimaux seen by Rae, Anderson, and M'Clintock state that none survive.

In reply to these assertions, I have to observe:

That the evidence of travellers, who have descended Great Fish River, or have journeyed along the coast at its mouth, places it beyond doubt that animal life is most

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as the following extracts will testify:—

“At the mouth of Great Fish River Simpson found abundance of salmon, and a little fish, called oonglak by the Esquimaux, and as seals were exceedingly numerous, there can be no question that various fish on which they prey, abound in these transparent waters. The objects seen on the coast are easily enumerated: a limestone country, low and uninteresting, but abounding in reindeer and musk ox.”

Hearne describes Great Fish River “as flowing through a country so abounding in animals, as not only to furnish an ample supply to his party, at that time consisting of two hundred people, but also to enable the Indians to kill great numbers, merely for the fat, marrow, and tongues.”⁴

Sir George Back says of Great Fish River, “that many parts have a close resemblance to the lava round Vesuvius, the intermediate spaces being filled up with green patches of meadow, which literally swarmed

³ Narrative of discoveries on the North Coast of America by Thomas Simpson, p. 365.

⁴ Geographical Journal, vol. iii, p. 70.

with reindeer, not fewer than twelve or fifteen hundred having been seen within the last twelve hours."⁵ Between Lake Beechy and Lakes Pelly, Garry, and McDougall, "the country was composed of rocky hills and swampy prairies, though the latter was far more extensive, all thickly inhabited by deer." Again, "we glided quickly along with the strong current, passing by peaked sand hills covered with deer to the amount of many thousands."⁶ Between Lake McDougall and the Sea, "near a picturesque and commanding mountain, called Mount Meadow Bank, cattle were feeding."⁷ Again, "near Montresor River is a solitary bank of sand, a favorite resort of geese, which having frequented it in numberless flocks during the moulting season, had left thousands of the finest quills strewed on the sand, carts might have been laden with them."⁸ Between Musk Ox Lake and Lake Beechy, "sandy banks are frequently met with, with small streamlets winding round their bases, affording pasturage to musk oxen and deer."⁹

⁵ Narrative of the Arctic Land Expedition to the mouth of Great Fish River, by Capt. Back, R.N. p. 328. ⁶ Idem, p. 331.
⁷ Idem, p. 369. ⁸ Idem, p. 371. ⁹ Idem, p. 319.

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N. p. 328. ⁹ Idem, p. 331.
Idem, p. 319.

Again, "a still sheet of water, where numerous deer were feeding, brought us to a long and appalling rapid."¹⁰ Again, "occasionally we found some low islands, and many deer were feeding in the prairies on either side."¹¹ Again, "near a lake, two or three hundred deer, and apart from these, herds of musk oxen were either grazing or sleeping."¹² Again, "our hunters, unable to resist the tempting neighbourhood of so many animals, were allowed to go in pursuit; with the express stipulation, that they were not to fire at the does or the last year's fawns."¹³

To these statements, I may add the testimony expressed in my narrative¹⁴ of the journey down Great Fish River, and to the fact, that at Point Ogle, which lies at the mouth of that stream, my own party had no less than seven head of reindeer and a musk ox, which they had shot, lying dead at one time; and M'Clintock, on his arrival there in the depth of winter "saw a herd of eight reindeer, and succeeded in shooting one of them,

¹⁰ Idem, p. 320. ¹¹ Idem, p. 323. ¹² Idem, p. 325. ¹³ Idem, p. 325.

¹⁴ Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Arctic Ocean by Richard King, M.D.

and in the evening, Peterson shot another,— some willow grouse were also seen; *there we found much more vegetation than upon King William Land, or any other arctic land I have yet seen.*"¹⁵

As regards the assertion that a civilised man cannot procure winter food in the same manner as the Esquimaux, I have to observe that the survivors of the Expedition had the advantage of superior weapons, by the assistance of which, they could in summer lay up a store of food sufficient for their winter wants. With the aid of such weapons, white men have already wintered in comparative comfort, in the immediate vicinity of Great Fish River. For example, Rae, in '46-7, wintered in Repulse Bay, within a short distance of Great Fish River, and reports that his party of twelve men suffered no privation as regards food, although only two of his men had ever previously practised reindeer shooting. "By our own exertions," he says, "in a country, previously totally unknown to us, we obtained the means of subsistence for twelve months, why may not

¹⁵ McClintock's Narrative p. 371.

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The Franklin Expedition party do the same? If it has been providentially thrown on or near a part of the coast where reindeer and fish are at all numerous, surely out of so many officers and men, sportsmen may be found expert enough to shoot the former, and fishermen to seize or net the latter, or take them with hook and line set under the ice. *We shot one hundred and sixty-two deer, two hundred partridges, a couple of seals, and nets under the ice yielded constantly salmon.*"¹⁶

Why then, I ask, should not some of the survivors of the lost Erebus and Terror have been able to pass, not only one, but many winters in the same country? It must be remembered, that among the crews of those vessels, there were four men—Mainely, Blankey, McDonald, and Read,—well acquainted with the means employed by the Esquimaux to obtain their winter food. *One of these men had already passed four winters in this very locality, with Sir John Ross; and in a country, where the Esquimaux—with the rudest weapons—contrive, not only to live, but attain a good old age,—where, during*

ve p. 371.

¹⁶ Franklin and the Arctic Regions, p. 235-6.

several months of the year, *both land and water teem with animal life*—it does seem incredible that some of our countrymen, blessed with superior intelligence and superior weapons, should not have succeeded in supporting their lives.

2. It is asserted, however, that if any of the missing crews are still alive, their existence would have been known to the Esquimaux, who had been seen by Rae, Anderson, and M'Clintock, but the knowledge we already possess of the inhabitants of that region, is sufficient to show that the range of the habitat of each family or tribe is extremely limited,—that little or no communication takes place between different families, and that some of them have been found to be ignorant of events that had taken place in the immediate vicinity of their resting places; nor is there any communication—except in isolated cases—between the Esquimaux who frequent the coast of North America, and the Indians who inhabit the country between the coast and the Hudson Bay territory. On the contrary, there is an open hostility between the races; instances have been known of

year, both land and life—it does seem of our countrymen, intelligence and success not have succeeded

however, that if any are still alive, their presence has not been known to the Hudson Bay Company, nor seen by Rae, Back, but the know-

ledge of the inhabitants is not sufficient to show that the members of each family or tribe are in contact at little or no communication between different parties of them have been known of events that had occurred in the immediate vicinity of the coast, nor is there any known isolated cases—

where the Eskimos who frequent the coast, and the Indians are in contact between the coast and the interior territory. On the other hand, the hostility between the Eskimos have been known of

parties of the Esquimaux having been nearly exterminated by the Indians, and the probability therefore is, that if any scattered remnant of our countrymen is still located among the Esquimaux, they cannot hope to escape to the Hudson Bay territory, but must remain to perish by degrees, unless assistance is rendered to them, and the means of escape supplied by the English Government.

For instance, Sir George Back states, "It has been said that we should, ere this, have heard of the missing Expedition through the medium of the Esquimaux and the Hudson Bay Company. But I may state that the Esquimaux have no intercourse whatever with the Hudson Bay Company; and, with the exception of the hordes that frequent Mackenzie River, never communicate even with the Indians."^a

"The large horde of Esquimaux, exceeding one hundred in number, met by Rae on Victoria Land (in close proximity to King William Land) had never seen ships or white men."^b

^a Sir G. Back in "Geographical Journal," vol. iii, p. 70:

^b "Arctic Expedition Blue Book, 1852, pp: 177 & 179.

Mr. Simpson says of the Esquimaux of Richardson River, that the circle of their lives was confined to Behren's Isles and that stream.^c

Taking into consideration, therefore, the unsatisfactory nature of the searches hitherto made,—the fact that not more than forty men out of the number that landed from the ships, have been accounted for, and that, whether any are still surviving, or whether the whole of the residue have perished, *a summer search*, which can *only* be accomplished by a Land Journey—all the Sea Expeditions having failed down to the last, that of McClintock—would probably lead to the elucidation of the mystery, I trust that your Grace will feel convinced that such a search would be productive of important results, and that Her Majesty's Government will not hesitate to undertake the responsibility of adopting my proposal.

The manner in which such a search should be conducted, would be by means of *a party of native Indians* to be despatched in canoes down Great Fish River. Arrived at the mouth of the stream, the party would examine King

^c "Simpson's Narrative," p. 315.

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Cache at Montreal Island, and Simpson
 Cache at Cape Britannia, which M'Clintock
 neglected to search, as well as Point Ogle and
 the adjoining country where the Indians are
 stated to have seen traces of our countrymen
 in '56. Accompanied by a proper inter-
 preter the party would have the means of
 conversing with the Esquimaux who frequent
 the mouth of the river, and ascend it for a
 short distance, during the summer months,
 for the purposes of the chase.

The future course of the party would be
 dependent upon the nature of the information
 to be obtained from the Esquimaux, but, in
 any case, King William Land would be
 explored at a period of the year, *when the*
secrets that were hidden beneath the icy coat
winter, during M'Clintock's search, would
 be laid bare. The party being in no want
 of provisions, would be able to seek for the
 remains of the wreck or wrecks. If the
 waters washing the western shore of King
 William Land should still be frozen, the
 search would be made over the ice, but, if
 the sea should be open, the canoes used in
 the descent of Great Fish River, would be
 available, or in the event of their being

insufficient, recourse could be had to the boat discovered by M'Clintock on King William Land, and which there can scarcely be a doubt, is still fit for use.

A search of this description could be carried into effect for a trifling sum. Hundreds of thousands have been expended in efforts, which have failed, to clear up the fate of the lost Expedition, and I cannot bring myself to the belief that Her Majesty's Government will be satisfied to leave the matter in its present state, when a sum of £.2000 or £.3000 would be sufficient to equip a party that could scarcely fail to gather sufficient information to render their search complete and final.

But such a search *ought not to be entrusted to the agents of a commercial company.* To the insufficiency of the equipment of the party despatched by the Hudson Bay Company, under their factor Mr. Anderson, is principally to be attributed the meagre results obtained by that Expedition, and the final search for the materials of the history, yet unwritten, of the discovery of the North-west Passage by the Erebus and Terror, ought to be carried into effect under

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discharge of a duty self-imposed, but not the
less onerous, I should be the chosen means
of clearing up the mystery in which the fate of
The Franklin Expedition is still enveloped.

The proved accuracy of my views respecting
the position of the lost ships, and the south-
ward march of their crews; my knowledge
of the country through which the searching
party must pass; my acquaintance with the
character of the various tribes, upon which
the leader of such a party would be dependent
for information; my profession which would
give me a power over those tribes that the
leader of no other Expedition has possessed,
are circumstances, which point to the con-
clusion that a *summer search* under my com-
mand would commence with no ordinary ad-
vantages.

I feel confident, therefore, that Her
Majesty's Government will sanction a further
effort, *complete yet inexpensive, as to life
as well as money*, for the purpose of
unravelling the dreadful secret of the

fate of our unhappy countrymen, and possibly of recovering some living member of the Expedition that sailed in all glory and enthusiasm under Franklin, Crozier, and Fitzjames, and that my claim to lead the party entrusted with a service of such world-wide importance will be favourably considered.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your faithful Servant,

RICHARD KING, M.D.

To HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE,

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

&c. &c. &c.

The Naval and Military Gazette, 5th Nov., '59.

It is frequently urged as a reproach against those philosophers who seek to establish the laws of the moral universe, that their labours are incapable of that highest proof, the verification by observation of the predictions arrived at by a sound induction. The actions of men in society have not yet yielded to science results at all comparable to those obtained by the study of the motions of the heavenly bodies or the phenomena of terrestrial gravitation.

There are, however, some gifted natures who appear occasionally endowed with almost prophetic foresight; and either by mere acute observation, or larger induction, are enabled to arrive at almost as certain results in the domain of social as of physical science.

The exercise of this faculty would probably be found of more frequent occurrence but for the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory proof of the existence of the prediction antecedent to that of the phenomena predicted. We are fortunate enough

for once to be in possession of documents sufficiently numerous and complete to satisfy the exigencies of the most sceptical.

The discovery of a passage available for the purposes of navigation through the intricacies of the Polar Seas had stimulated the energies of our navigators for upwards of three centuries. Slowly, but surely, we had been extending our knowledge in that direction until Parry's famous voyage to Melville Island eclipsed all his predecessors, and afforded some hopes of a solution of this great problem.

The want of success which attended his subsequent efforts, more especially when compared with what had been obtained at a tenth part of the cost by the Polar land travellers—Hearne, Mackenzie, Franklin, and Simpson—would clearly have indicated to even ordinary minds the means best calculated to attain the end. Not so the British Admiralty; that body determined that, notwithstanding the repeated failures of expeditions by *sea*, and the success of those by *land*, that by *sea* the passage should be sought; and 12th December, 1844, appointed Sir J. Franklin,

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an officer fifty-nine years of age, who had won a wide and well-earned reputation by his Polar *land* Journeys, to the command of the Erebus and Terror.

On 20th February, 1845, Dr. King addressed a letter to Lord Stanley, now Lord Derby, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, pointing out the dangers which Sir J. Franklin would incur, and indicating how the object he was sent to effect might be attained with little risk and less cost. It must be remembered that Dr. King was not then a theoretical geographer; he had *led* the expedition in search of Sir John Ross *into* and *out* of the Polar region, and had, as Sir George Back's Medical Officer, accompanied him down Great Fish River to the shores of the Polar Sea; he was, therefore, pre-eminently an authority, and entitled to a respectful hearing, which, however, he was *not* successful in obtaining.

Nothing daunted by the contumelious silence of the Colonial Office, on 10th June, 1847, he addressed Earl Grey, who had succeeded Lord Stanley, in a letter commencing with the memorable words, "My

Lord, one hundred and thirty-eight men are at this moment in imminent danger of perishing from famine." He again recapitulated the dangers of which he had already warned Lord Stanley, and in language clear and forcible indicated "the probable position of The Franklin Expedition, the condition of the Polar lands about it, and the best means of saving it."

He says, "The position, then, that I should assign to the lost expedition, is the Western Land of North Somerset, the midway between the settlements of the Hudson Bay Company on the Mackenzie and the fishing grounds of the whalers in Barrow Strait. If Sir J. Franklin has attempted to make a short cut westward instead of sailing southward, along the Western Land of North Somerset, and wrecked himself on Banks and Wollaston Land, he has run headlong into that danger against which I expressly warned him."

As to the means of affording relief to the lost expedition, Dr. King pointed out that North Somerset could easily be reached by a party travelling down Great Fish River, that depôts of provision might be

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formed on the Mackenzie and Great Slave Lake, to which they might be conducted, and himself volunteered to be their conductor. In conclusion, he recounted the terrible ravages which would be effected among them by scurvy, should they be compelled to pass a third winter in those regions.

No further notice having been taken of these earnest appeals, on November 25, 1847, he again addressed Earl Grey: "The last ray of hope has passed, when Sir J. Franklin, by his own exertions, can save himself and his one hundred and thirty-seven followers from the death of starvation." He recapitulated the arguments he had already so forcibly urged, and earnestly entreated to be allowed to lead an expedition to Sir J. Franklin's relief. This offer he renewed 8th December and 16th December; and being referred by the Colonial Office to the Admiralty, he in February summed up the whole case for their benefit; receiving no reply to his communications, he, on 3rd March, reminded them that the 18th was the latest date at which he could start to

be of any service that season, and that it would be necessary for him to make arrangements for vacating the appointments he held as a practising physician in London. The Colonial Office were satisfied with coolly ignoring him; the Admiralty thought it necessary thus deliberately to insult the man who was desirous of making an heroic effort to rescue those men whom their official pigheadedness had consigned to destruction.

On 3rd March Mr. Ward writes, "I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to acquaint you that they have no intention of altering their present arrangements, or of making any others which will require your assistance or force you to make the sacrifices which you appear to contemplate."

Not content with urging his views upon every department of Government, Dr. King, upon hearing that Lady Franklin had offered £1,000 reward to any whaling ships finding the expedition, addressed her Ladyship, 29th March, pointing out the inadequacy of her offer to effect its purpose, and urging with how much greater

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The voice of public opinion was, how-
ever, not wholly inoperative, and compelled
the Admiralty to take some steps in search
of the lost party. Three expeditions were
accordingly despatched; Sir James Ross
through Lancaster Sound; Captain Moore
through Behring Straits; Sir J. Richardson
to search the Polar Coast, from the Mac-
kenzie to the Coppermine Rivers. Neither
of these expeditions bore the slightest fruit,
and three private expeditions were fitted
out under command of Sir J. Ross and
Commander Forsyth on behalf of the Bri-
tish public; and under Lieutenant De
Haven on behalf of the citizens of the
United States. The Admiralty, not to be
behindhand, sent Captains McClure and
Collinson to Behring Straits; Captains
Austen, Ommaney, Penny, and Stewart,
with Lieutenants Cator and Osborn, by
Barrow Strait. The only part of the Polar
Coast proposed to be omitted was that
adjacent to the mouth of Great Fish River.
Accordingly Dr. King again addressed the
Admiralty, 18. July, '50, pointing out the

causes of failure of preceding expeditions, and recapitulating the evidence in favour of the position he had assigned to Sir J. Franklin. The Admiralty again "must decline the offer of his services."

Commander Forsyth, Lieutenant De Haven, and Sir J. Ross, obtained no results; but Captain Austen organised a complete examination of the Shores of Barrow Strait and Wellington Channel, as far west as Melville Island; and Captain Penny discovered Sir J. Franklin's first wintering in Beechy Island in '46-'47.

The Admiralty next appointed an Arctic Council, consisting of Sir F. Beaufort, Sir E. Parry, Sir J. Richardson, Sir James Ross, Sir G. Back, Col. Sabine, Capt. Hamilton, Capt. Bird, Capt. Beechy, and Mr. Barrow. It is to be supposed that every particle of evidence bearing upon the question was laid before these gentlemen—at any rate *some* of them must have had official cognisance of Dr. King's repeated memorials,—nevertheless:—

Sir F. Beaufort arrived at the conclusion that they were locked up in the Archipelago to the west of Melville Island.

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Sir E. Parry's belief was, that, *after the first winter*, Franklin went up Wellington Channel.

Sir J. Richardson did not think that, *under any circumstances*, Sir J. Franklin would attempt the route of Great Fish River.

Sir James Ross *could not conceive any position in which the Franklin expedition could be placed* from which they would make for Great Fish River.

Sir G. Back requested the Secretary of the Admiralty "to impress on my Lords Commissioners that I wholly reject *all and every idea of any attempts* on the part of Sir J. Franklin to send boats or detachments over the ice to *any point* of the mainland in the vicinity of Great Fish River."

Colonel Sabine conceived that the crews may have been at length obliged to quit their ships and attempt a retreat, *not towards the continent*, because too distant, but to Melville Island.

Captain Beechy alone took a comprehensive view of the subject: "I am of opinion that nothing should be neglected in the

direction of the northern coast of America, for it seems to me almost certain that Sir J. Franklin has abandoned his ships and made for the continent."

Two other members of the Council have not recorded their opinions.

It cannot be too strongly urged on our readers' attention that, notwithstanding the earnest and repeated warnings and entreaties of Dr. King, always accompanied by a well-reasoned *exposé* of the grounds of his opinions, the Admiralty obstinately persisted in ignoring every argument urged by him, even when supported by such an officer as Captain Beechy. As if to consummate their *extravagance* and *cruel mockery* of his efforts, they despatched Sir E. Belcher in command of a fleet of four ships in the precise track which Captain Austen had just explored without result. The same verdict cannot be passed upon him, inasmuch as one of his lieutenants, Bedford Pim, R.N., was the fortunate means of discovering and rescuing Captain M'Clure and the crew of the Investigator at Mercy Bay.

The first gleam of light which pierced the cloud that enveloped Franklin and his

of the coast of America, most certain that Sir James Ross ordered his ships and crews to be sent to the Council have been ordered. Mr. King was urged on our part notwithstanding the warnings and entreaties always accompanied by José of the grounds of the Admiralty obstinately every argument urged supported by such an authority. As if to convince and cruel mockery despatched Sir E. Parry a fleet of four ships under Captain Austen with the same result. The same day was ordered upon him, inas- much as the Admiralty, Bedford and the means of dis- patching Captain M'Clure and the expedition to Mercy Bay. The light which pierced the darkness of Franklin and his

followers, was perceived accidentally by a man perhaps of all Arctic travellers the least qualified to avail himself of its indications. Mr. Rae, a chief factor in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, was sent by them to examine the Isthmus of Boothia and adjoining tract, his course necessarily leading him in the immediate vicinity of Great Fish River; it was to be anticipated that neither he nor his employers would lose so favourable an opportunity for verifying Dr. King's conjectures. Not at all; either entire ignorance of the whole question, or perverse and obstinate determination that whatever might be Franklin's fate he would not be a party to confirming anything Dr. King had said, induced Mr. Rae thus publicly to record *his own condemnation*, giving a description of his journey in the direction of Great Fish River. "I do not mention the lost navigators, as there is not the slightest hope of finding any traces of them in the quarter to which I am going." But at Pelly Bay he met a party of Esquimaux, from whom he obtained silver spoons and other articles bearing the crests and initials of Franklin

and his Officers. He further stated, that from the same Esquimaux he learned that the bodies of thirty white men had been found on the continent and five on an island near; and from their description of the locality he identified it as the shore near Point Ogle and Montreal Island; he also asserted, on Esquimaux authority, that our men had had recourse to cannibalism as a means of prolonging existence. Such an assertion was not likely to go unchallenged; and Mr. Rae was severely called to account both by the relatives of the lost party and by Dr. King; their strict cross-examination elicited from him the fact that, having no interpreter, he had learned all his alleged facts from signs! It was also remarked as singular, that, although within six or eight hours' journey of the alleged scene of the final catastrophe, as he *then* supposed, he made no effort to verify his Esquimaux information.

On 20th June, 1855, the Hudson Bay Company, to supply his deficiency, *at last* despatched an expedition in charge of Mr. Anderson, in the very course prescribed by Dr. King,—and with what result?

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At the rapids below Lake Franklin they found Esquimaux having in their possession various articles belonging to a boat, such as tent poles, pieces of mahogany, elm, oak, pine, copper and sheet iron boilers, tin soup tureens, pieces of instruments, tools, &c. They endeavoured to ascertain whether they had any books or papers, but in vain; by a singular want of provision, this expedition, like Rae's, was unaccompanied by any Esquimaux interpreter. On Montreal Island, at the mouth of Great Fish River, the very spot indicated by Dr. King, abundant traces were discovered, such as chain, hooks, chisels, blacksmiths' tools, pieces of rope, and a number of sticks strung together, on one of which was cut "Stanley," the surgeon of the Erebus, and on a chip the word "Terror." They also found at Point Ogle a small piece of cod-line and a strip of striped cotton.

On receipt of the intelligence of Mr. Anderson's journey, Dr. King again volunteered his services to proceed down Great Fish River, 23rd January, '56, recapitulating his previous arguments, pointing out how

they had been verified by Anderson's discoveries "on the very spot where Mr. Rae and the Arctic Council had come to the conclusion that the lost navigators could *by no human possibility* be found, and in the identical locality which he had never ceased to urge was the precise point which Franklin would endeavour to reach, and where traces of the expedition would infallibly be found." Dr. King also pointed out the object of the party visiting Montreal Island, viz., to deposit a record of the proceedings of the expedition in the cairn constructed by him in '34, visited by Simpson in '39, and well known to Franklin. This cairn does not appear to have been searched by Mr. Anderson, and therefore Dr. King urged, with great probability, that the last news of the heroic survivors will be found there. *By a singular fatality, Captain M^r Clintock appears, on his recent visit to Montreal Island, to have been totally unaware of the very existence of King cache, and, therefore, was unsuccessful in finding any records in that locality. Perhaps it will scarcely be necessary to tell our readers that "the Admiralty did not think it*

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By this time Dr. King had come to regard the refusal of his offers as a natural phenomenon, standing in the mutual relation of cause to effect, and therefore, 8th December, '56, volunteered for a combined search, by *sea and land*, in conjunction with Commander Bedford Pim, R.N.

On February 14, Capt. Sherard Osborn forwarded to the *Times* a report from Red River settlement, that the Indians had seen two or more encampments of white men on the island on some point where Mr. Anderson had turned back, and that one of the encampments was quite fresh, and had probably contained ten or twelve men; the indefatigable Dr. King lost no time in knocking at the doors of the Admiralty, 23rd February, '57, again pointing out the causes of failure of previous expeditions, urging the probability of the truth of the report, and volunteering his services to test it. The Admiralty contented themselves with acknowledging his letter.

But the hour had now struck when the painful mystery was to be solved, and the

culpability of Her Majesty's Government in so long neglecting the voice of warning and advice to be completely demonstrated. Lady Franklin and her friends had fitted out a small vessel, the Fox, under command of Captain M'Clintock, to make a further search. She sailed in '57; she passed the first winter in the ice, unable to effect anything; in September, '58, she passed through Bellot Strait, and wintered on North Somerset. Here they learned from the Esquimaux that several years ago a ship had been crushed on the northern coast of King William Land, that all her people landed safely and went away to Great Fish River, where they died.

A thorough search of the western shore of North Somerset, as well as of King William Land, was organised in the spring, and upon Point Victory (Sir J. R.'s farthest search in '28-'30) a cairn was found, containing a record, signed by Captains Crozier and Fitzjames, stating that the Erebus and Terror were beset in the ice off King William Land. Franklin died 11th June, '47; on 22nd April, '48, the ships were abandoned, five leagues N.N.W. of Point

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Victory, and the survivors, 105 in number, had landed, under command of Captain Crozier; the paper was dated 25th April, '48, and the following day they intended to start for Great Fish River. A vast quantity of stores and clothing were strewed about, as if everything was thrown away that could possibly be dispensed with. About midway between Point Victory and Cape Herschell a large boat was found containing two skeletons and a further quantity of cast-off articles, intended for the ascent of Great Fish River, but was abandoned on a return journey to the ships, the sledge on which she was mounted being pointed in that direction. Two double-barrelled guns stood against the side, with ammunition in abundance.

The evidence is now complete of the entire accuracy of Dr. King's predictions, as well as of the efficiency of the means by which he proposed to alleviate the fatal results he so accurately foresaw. He told the Admiralty, 10th June, '47,—“One hundred and thirty-eight men are at this moment in imminent danger of perishing from famine.” Sir J. Franklin himself

died on the very next day to the date of that remarkable letter, in which his warning voice first sounded the alarm,—“If Sir J. Franklin has attempted to make a short cut westward, instead of sailing southward along the Western Land of North Somerset, and wrecked himself on Banks and Wollaston Land, he has run headlong into that danger of which I expressly warned him.” “If, however, Banks and Wollaston Land should form the resting-place of the Erebus and Terror, it will not be that of the Expedition. If the party have kept together, and woe be to them if they have not, they will take to their boats and make for the Western Land of North Somerset, for the double purpose of reaching Barrow Strait in search of the northern whalers, as Sir J. Ross did successfully, and Great Fish River, in search of the Esquimaux, for provision or for letter conveyance to the Copper Indians, with whom the Esquimaux are now in friendly relation.”

On that very land the first traces were found; to that very point the expedition directed their steps. Had Dr. King's offer been accepted in the summer of '48, he would have

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reached the mouth of Great Fish River,
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 were starting with the survivors, 25th
 April, '48!! Could human foresight more
 accurately have indicated the time, the
 place, the nature of the catastrophe, and
 the means for averting it? Could human
 infatuation more obstinately persist in stop-
 ping its ears to the warning voice? Let
 the Admiralty, however, urge in extenua-
 tion that they were not alone in their re-
 jection of all words of warning or advice.
 In the *Athenæum*, 19 June, '47, we find a
 letter signed, “Charles Richard Weld,”
 dated 15th June, stating that he felt it his
 duty, as a connexion of Sir J. Franklin,
 not to allow Dr. King's communications
 to pass without observation. He argues
 that Franklin was provisioned for the
 summer of '49, and that there were no
 grounds whatever for the assertion that
 “one hundred and thirty-eight men are at
 this moment in imminent danger of perish-
 ing by famine.” “*There is, therefore, no
 cause as yet for flying to his rescue.*”
 June 11, '47, four days before the date of
 Mr. Weld's letter, *Franklin was dead.*

United Service Museum, Oct. '59.

THE FRANKLIN RELICS.

SUPERIOR to all the sights and exhibitions in London at the present moment, especially to the patriot and the philanthropist, is the collection of relics of The Franklin Expedition in the United Service Institution, Whitehall. Since the opening of the collection of these relics, it has been visited by all classes of the community; and much as they are experienced in sight-seeing—for the metropolitan public will incur any inconvenience and exertion, and even suffer extortionate demands, to witness gewgaw or tomfoolery spectacles, if they bear at all the mark of novelty—it is absolutely instructive to observe the varied impulses of feeling which gush, as it were, from the fountain of the heart of every spectator who gazes upon the

memorials of the ill-starred Polar adventurers. The great secret of the popular sympathy now awakened is the fact that The Franklin Expedition met its fate by neglect of duty on the part of the Executive authorities at home, and that these relics do not represent the classic ages of other lands, but call up the memories of men who were "bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh." This great metropolis, boasting of its museums, and halls, and galleries replete with the productions of Nature, and enriched with the trophies of art and science, the citizen and the stranger delight to view the handiwork of the higher intellectual labours of man; but does the fruit of wondrous mechanical skill elicit the throbbing interest with which the spectator looks upon the dip-circle or the sextant of the lonely wanderers who perished at Point Victory? The connoisseur may be gratified with the great works of art by the old and modern masters; but it is unquestionable that his susceptibilities will be more excited at sight of the once gaudy remains of clothing found around the skeleton of that forsaken adventurer,

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who, like his companions, "dropped by the way" not far distant from Cape Herschell. The antiquary loves to muse over the emblazoned shields and banners of ancient heraldry; but deeper feelings have been evoked, and holier sympathies enlisted, at sight of the weather-battered ensign found in the snow-heap on King William Land. The votaries of *vertù* may prize articles which have been recovered from the ruins and *débris* of the palaces of potentates who ruled the world before the Christian era; but passionate has been the grief of kindred on looking at the pocket-watches and travelling equipments identified as having belonged to the ill-fated voyagers. The British people, from time to time, have bestowed almost incalculable wealth upon individuals who brought to our shores memorials of ancient Powers and Principalities, whether these were relics of imperial cities upon which once smiled the rugged grandeur of the Alps, the sunny mountains of Asia, the peaks of the Andes, or the gigantic heights of Africa—"Atlas with his head above the clouds;" many relics of ancient empires of the world

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—relics from Palmyra or Pæstum, from Nineveh or Helicarnassus — and works which distinguished the genius, the taste, and the luxury of the Greeks and Italians, embellish the rooms of our public institutions, and adorn the mansions of our fellow-subjects. But let those treasures indicate, as they do, the ostentatious magnificence of the ancients, and at whatever sacrifice of labour or of money let them have been procured ; still, there have been recovered from the cairns, the deserted snow-huts, and the boat abandoned (which contained the two skeletons that told the tale of lonely sadness and resignation to the death), such articles as belonged to the band of martyrs which shall ever have a priceless value in the eyes of the whole British community. Peerless above the knick-knacks which are now stored in the various cases, however, are the well-worn memorials of the religious tone which pervaded Franklin's surviving companions, for the *parts* of Bibles and Testaments, Family Prayers, Christian Melodies, and Goldsmith's inimitable moral romance, attest the solemn frame of mind and heart

of each lost wanderer. Who can tell of supplications at the Throne of Mercy by men whose hearts quailed not at death in the battle-line or at the roar of waters—by those whose tones “grew fainter and more faint” in prayer, and who, struggling with darkness and the rigours of their icy prisons, sighed to God again and again, “Hide not Thyself;”—and by others, who, brooding over the horrible deaths that seemed to overwhelm them, lisped the wish of having “wings like a dove,” as David of Israel once prayed to his God, “for then would they flee away, and be at rest”?

Since the Franklin relics have been opened to public view, surmises and questions are “the order of the day” relative to the entire history of the Expedition, which, it may be remembered, was resolved upon in December, 1844, in search of the North-West Passage—an endeavour to solve the problem of 300 years. Sir John Franklin, then 59 years of age, was entrusted with the command of the exploration; but his instructions appearing to be fraught with danger, and the Ex-

pedition doubted as a failure, in consequence of those instructions leading him "an adventurous way, through an unknown sea," several eminent geographers protested against Franklin being destined to lead such a "forlorn hope." Chief of the opponents of the Admiralty scheme was Dr. King, of London—alike eminent in science and geography. Many of the points referred to are derived from epistolary correspondence quoted in "The Franklin Expedition, from First to Last," by Dr. King, published originally in 1855. The work has, however, been continued till the present time, and contains sound opinions relative to the Expedition of M'Clintock. But it is chiefly valuable as embracing Dr. King's conjectural chart (of 1845) of the Polar Sea, when he devised measures for the discovery of the North-West Passage by means of a Land Journey, in opposition to The Franklin Expedition by sea; also another chart, of 1859, which thoroughly verifies the conjectural chart of 1845—showing the position of Franklin's ships when abandoned, the

traces of the Lost Expedition, and the point where the great geographical problem was *accidentally* solved by M'Clure.

It was on the 20th February, 1845, when Dr. King addressed a communication to Lord Stanley, now the Earl of Derby, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, contending against The Franklin Expedition *by sea*, from an honest conviction of its impracticability in the then state of our knowledge of Arctic lands, and proposing for adoption a plan for a land journey. It was proposed that a party of two officers, one of the medical profession, a boat carpenter, and thirteen men, fully equipped for the service, should start from Montreal, in Canada, and reach the Athabasca Lake in summer. After certain preliminary arrangements, such as the collecting and hoarding of provisions, and winter quarters fixed, the exploring party were to be on the shores of the Polar Sea as early as the navigation permitted. When the Coppermine River and the Great Fish River were open, the Expedition was to be in progress; one detachment to go one way—for Cape Britannia, on the Western

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Land of North Somerset—and the other to trace Victoria Land, westerly, with the view of testing its value relatively to the North-West Passage. To strengthen his views, Dr. King informed the Colonial Secretary, that “in two instances journeys by land had been set in motion to aid expeditions by sea;” and he informed his Lordship that his position at that date was very different to that of 1836—remarking, with a candid spirit worthy of the noble cause he espoused, “*I was then unknown;* and, from the simplicity and economy of my views, considered a visionary.” This observation is in reference to Dr. King’s practical opinions, contained in a communication to the Geographical Society, on the best means by which Arctic discovery was to be pursued; namely, “by a small party rather than by a large number of persons;” quoting, as precedents, the cases of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who made “all his discoveries in a North-canoe; and Hearne, who discovered the mouth of the Coppermine River without even a single attendant;” and citing quite opposite results in the cases of Park and Lander, “who suc-

ceeded in their researches when alone, but failed and lost their lives when accompanied by a party." Let that be as it may, Dr. King, who had pleaded from 1836 to 1845 in favour of a land journey to prosecute Arctic discovery, received no encouragement from the Government of Sir Robert Peel, even though that indefatigable and enterprising geographer "was ready to volunteer the whole command, or part of the command, with any officer Lord Stanley might appoint, provided the said officer was of Dr. King's own age, and in possession of the same amount of physical capability."

Sir John Franklin's Expedition, which consisted of 138 officers and men, left the shores of England in 1845. It was last heard of on the 26th of July of the same year, in lat. 74°, long. 66°, of Baffin Bay. The spring of 1846 brought no tidings of the voyagers, and their relatives and friends became anxious about their safety. The showers and sunshine of that year beautified the landscapes around the rural homesteads of the British people—smiling plenty blessed the harvest—and the sterility of

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winter, even in this favoured southern climate, bound stream and cascade in icy fetters. It was then that fear and apprehension—spreading, like a contagion, from wife to wife, from father to mother, from sister to brother, as to the difficulties of their kindred in the frozen regions—took possession of the public mind. But when the matter was broached incidentally at head-quarters, relatives were put off by a side-wind, told to pay attention to their own business, and informed that Franklin and his comrades knew well enough how to husband their resources. The public were satisfied for a time with the cool assurances of the Board of Admiralty, until Dr. King, in the summer of 1847, addressed a communication to Earl Grey, who, at that time, was Secretary for the Colonies in place of Lord Stanley—the Whigs having displaced the Conservatives in power. Dr. King, ever watchful over the interests of the cause which he felt warmly at heart, made the Colonial Secretary aware “that an attempt would be made to save our countrymen, if not by the efforts of the Government, by the British public;” and suggested

that the service of succour be open to public competition. "Let the attempt that is to be made to save Sir John Franklin," he impressively remarked, "be made fully public, that the proposed plans—for there will, doubtless, be several—may be discussed, and therein be raised a praiseworthy competition, which will, at all events, have the semblance of an endeavour to follow the right course." In addition to suggesting an honourable rivalry in the mode of search, he most pointedly assigned the position of the missing Expedition to the Western Land of North Somerset, which he described as being midway between the settlements of the Hudson Bay Company, on the Mackenzie River, and the fishing grounds of the whalers in Barrow Strait. And why did he assign this position? Because, if Sir John Franklin had attempted to make "a short cut *westward*, instead of sailing *southward* along the Western Land of North Somerset, and wrecked himself on Banks and Wollaston Land, he ran headlong into that danger of which he was expressly warned before he sailed—Polar Sea expedi-

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tions, since 1818, having in every instance failed from the same cause; the clinging to lands having an eastern aspect: Sir Edward Parry, Sir John Ross, Sir George Back, Captain Lyon, Captain Beechy, and Captain Buchan being the unsuccessful navigators."

With experience and forethought for his guide, and discretion and common sense for his monitor, Dr. King, in his efforts to pilot the way to the missing voyagers, assured Earl Grey "that the Western Land of North Somerset could easily be reached by a party travelling overland from Canada; and that it could not be denied that a land journey afforded the only sure mode of extending our geographical knowledge, and, therefore, the only sure ladder by which to reach Sir John Franklin. If he is to be relieved, it must be in the summer of 1848. He must be spared the winter of that year."

But while this zealous advocate was pleading at the bureau of the Whig Government in behalf of the Expedition, little did he know that the gallant Franklin was struggling with death on the very

day on which this celebrated epistle was penned to Earl Grey, and that on the following day—the eventful 11th of June, 1847—his spirit winged its flight from those hyperborean regions to a brighter and a better world. Though the captain of the host was no longer spared to preside over the councils of his comrades, they were then devising means of escape. It was not, therefore, until the spring of the following year, the 22nd of April, 1848, that the ships were abandoned “*in the ice,*” upon the north-west coast of King William Land, and that the survivors, in all amounting to 105 individuals, under the command of Captain Crozier and Captain Fitzjames, were proceeding to the Great Fish River. These facts, brought to light by the successful Expedition of Lady Franklin, do not alter Dr. King’s position a single hair’s-breadth as to his energy towards endeavouring to rescue the survivors. We know from records found by M’Clintock, that up till the day when the survivors had determined to push their way to the Great Fish River, the total loss was nine officers and thirteen

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men. Such being the case, then, Dr. King threw a heavy responsibility upon the Government—and that responsibility we know now, alas! was not too heavily imposed—if every effort that experience could suggest was not made to save the Expedition from the ordeal of passing the winter of 1848 in the Polar Seas—very gently and courteously, withal, hinting to Earl Grey in these words—“The least that the present Government can do is to lessen the evils that their predecessors have allowed the veteran to heap upon himself.”

This communication was unanswered. On the 25th November of the same year, Dr. King renewed his proposition “to attempt to reach the Western Land of North Somerset before the close of the summer of 1848, by which he would incur the risk of having to winter with the Esquimaux, or of having to make the journey along the barren ground to winter quarters on snow shoes.” In this fresh communication, Dr. King, discarding the Pacific route as an idea of bygone days, and considering the Atlantic route to be doubtful of success, renewed his desire for a land journey as

alone reliable for success, and beckoned the way, once more, to the Western Land of North Somerset, where, he maintained, the Expedition would be found, with the Great Fish River as the direct and only route; "and although the approach to it," he says, "is through a country too poor and too difficult of access to admit of the transport of provisions, it may be the medium of communication between the lost Expedition and the civilized world." In impressing upon the mind of the Colonial Secretary the ardent wish that he might be allowed to have a "place" in the great effort which should be made for the rescue of the Expedition, Dr. King emphatically observes—"The journey which I proposed to Lord Glenelg in 1835, afterwards to Lord Stanley, and which I now, at the expiration of twelve years, propose to your Lordship, is along a land which has a *western aspect*, and which I have shown is almost invariably *ice-free*. My progress, therefore, to the spot where I suppose the lost Expedition will be found will be unimpeded; and not only will the question as to the peninsularity of North

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Somerset be set at rest, but that which remains undone of the northern configuration will be completed; for it is by hugging the Western Land of North Somerset only that we can expect to fall upon the traces of the lost Expedition." Could there have been anything clearer or more distinct than this geographical portraiture?

It having transpired that the Board of Admiralty had resolved to make a search for the missing Expedition, Dr. King resumed communication with Earl Grey, and renewed his proposal to reach the Polar Sea across the continent of America—to proceed from land known to be continent, where, he said, "every footstep is sure." He very cleverly combated the Board of Admiralty theory of an Arctic search, which virtually amounted to the declaration that the lost Expedition could not be relieved unless the North-West Passage was discovered; in other words, first discover the "Passage," and then seek for the lost Expedition. He directed the attention of Earl Grey to the necessity of the Government filling up the blank which the Admiralty had left in their intended search;

namely, that while Sir James Ross and Captain Moore, in command of a fleet of four vessels, were to search the sea, and Sir John Richardson in command of a land journey across the continent of America, the latter's knowledge of the Mackenzie and the Coppermine Rivers, and Dr. King's knowledge of the Great Fish River and its estuary, would be guarantees that the work would be done well:—"this state of independence," remarked Dr. King, "insuring a large amount of effort, even though it were merely in a spirit of emulation."

But though he submitted his "offer of service" to the consideration of the Government, not only on pure and disinterested grounds, but in the cause of humanity, what must have been Dr. King's feelings on receiving a letter from the Colonial Office more than a fortnight afterwards, telling him that, as he had *solicited employment*, it did not fall within the province of the Secretary for the Colonies to confer *appointments* in connexion with the searching Expedition, and referring him to the Board of Admiralty on the subject? We are

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proud, however, to know that Dr. King, whose feelings had been too long dallied with by the martinets of the Colonial and Admiralty Boards, did not lose his self-command, and that he maintained a calm and dignified demeanour at an hour when other men might have flung down the gauntlet in the heat of passion. Little wonder at our "weary and worn" countrymen being seen by the Esquimaux to "drop as they walked" on their straggling journey to the Great Fish River—the very position where Dr. King pledged his life he would meet his long-lost friends and countrymen:—little wonder that "bleached skeletons" were found amidst the snow-drifts of those inhospitable shores, when an experienced pioneer was subjected to the cold shade of a time-serving political faction. But he met the missive of the Whig Minister as a patriot and as a gentleman:—"I am not soliciting employment! I am endeavouring to induce your Lordship to take measures which I believe to be necessary for saving the lives of 138 of our fellow-creatures. So far from soliciting employment—so far from desiring to con-

tinue a Polar traveller, I have long ceased to be a candidate for such an office: my services in search of Sir John Ross not having been even acknowledged by the Colonial and Admiralty Boards; and it is only for the sake of humanity that I am induced to come forward again in such a character."

Not having lost heart by "the slings and arrows" of routine life—at that time rather feately shot by the Executive of the State, under whatever form of Administration—Dr. King, in February, 1848, put himself in communication with the Board of Admiralty itself, and broached his proposition relative to attempting a journey in the northern regions of America—an attempt to reach the Western Land of North Somerset, by the close of the approaching summer, *i. e.*, the summer of 1848. "It was by the Great Fish River," says Dr. King, "I reached the Polar Sea while acting as second officer in search of Sir John Ross;" and hence he felt it his duty to place his views on record as an earnest of his sincerity.

Having, therefore (on the 3rd of March.

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of the same year), volunteered his services to the Admiralty to proceed by the Great Fish River, convinced that it would eventually prove to be the only effectual route for discovering the lost Expedition, he was as coolly and cavalierly received at the Admiralty as he had been at the Colonial Office. He was told—"They have no intention of altering their present arrangements, or of making any others, that will require your assistance, or force you to make the sacrifices which you appear to contemplate." We have no doubt that Mr. Ward, then Secretary to the Admiralty, who wrote this curt, sarcastic, and haughty note, considered he was echoing the sentiments of his masters; but he might have, at least, been civil, even though he was employed five years as the corresponding clerk to the Naval Lords. Dr. King was not a visionary—not a Will-o'-the-Wisp who flickered momentary gleams of light to dazzle and betray belated travellers. He was a man who had braved the Arctic regions, and saved Sir John Ross and his comrades from the very fate that threatened Franklin and his fellow-coun-

trymen. Besides, on the very face of the record, he did not contemplate making any more "sacrifices" than what his patriotism and genial soul prompted him to forfeit. And this was no mere trifle: for, in addition to the surrender of an affluent professional practice, he was prepared to vacate a very honourable social status—appointments as Physician to a London Fire and Life Office, Physician to the Blenheim-street Dispensary, Honorary Secretary of the Ethnological Society, and Assistant Secretary of the Statistical Society. Mr. Ward, therefore, was well aware of the position and ability of the man whom he was addressing. But public servants, like menials attached to domestic households, too often fancy they are performing the legitimate functions of their office when they substitute impertinence for civility.

Lady Franklin having been advised to offer £1000 to the Northern whalers for the relief of her husband and his party, Dr. King very kindly informed her that if she had offered that sum for an Expedition down the Great Fish River, and

another £1000 for an Expedition down the Coppermine River, a large portion of the coast line might have been searched in the summer of 1849 : for we know that a great number of the Expedition were alive in 1850, and that if such an offer had been made a month only ago [Dr. King's advice was made on the 29th of March], the whole of that coast line might have been reached by the close of the summer of 1848. But it was too late. The Fates had so decreed.

Dr. King now observed that his labours in favour of a land journey by the Great Fish River were altogether in vain. He pursued the even tenor of his life socially and professionally—no doubt, sometimes, grieved to find that his propositions had not been entertained, instead of the foolish counsels of persons who looked for successful results from mediocre talent and easy enterprise. In the hours of his retirement—judging from what he knew of the incompleteness of the Admiralty effort—his keen and acute mind evidently followed the track of the death-stricken navigators, many of whom “dropped by the way” as they penetrated through storms of wind,

and sleet, and snow, towards the Great Fish River.

It is mortifying now to know the melancholy truth that this stream was the identical point towards which our countrymen were hastening after they abandoned the ships in the spring of 1848. Notwithstanding the extraordinary exertions of Dr. King, who, in the most explicit language—based upon a practical knowledge of the country, as we have shown—forwarded information to successive Governments, since the summer of 1847, that the missing Expedition would be found in that direction, both his offers of service and his information were officially rejected. To be sure, the Government of the day appointed an Arctic Council to deliberate upon the probable position of Franklin and his companions; but, although this gentleman had, after mature study, pointed out the right path to “seek and to save” them, the Council simply contented themselves by chiming in with the opinions of Sir James Ross, Sir J. Richardson, and Sir G. Back, to the effect that “*the Expedition would not, under any circumstances, make for the Great*

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Fish River." The public, unfortunately sometimes, do not interfere with the course of official life. But we dare say there are not ten men in England who would not have responded to the sentiments of Dr. King when he declared, that had the various Boards of Admiralty conscientiously discharged their duty, the greater portion of the Expedition would have been restored to their families and friends. Dr. King appears to use the word "conscientiously" in a broad, catholic sense: for he has given the Governments of the day credit for having despatched a series of Expeditions to the Polar Seas at three different periods. We have already alluded to the first period, when a fleet of four vessels was despatched under command of Sir James Ross and Captain Moore, and a land journey across the Continent of America in charge of Sir John Richardson. The second time, a fleet of eight vessels sailed under the command of Captains Collinson, Austin, and Penny. The third period, there was a fleet of four vessels under the command of Sir Edward Belcher and Captain Kellet. At

the cost of £2,000,000, the results were nothing — empty and fruitless missions. Ever active in the cause of humanity, the people of Great Britain and America joined in endeavouring to rescue their helpless fellow-creatures. The first period embraced a fleet of three vessels, under the command of Lieutenant de Haven, of the United States service, and Commander Forsyth and Sir John Ross; the second period showed two vessels, one in command of Dr. Kane, of the United States, and the other in charge of Captain Kennedy. The results of these two private Expeditions were likewise barren. But the third period comprehends the successful Expedition of M'Clintock, sent at the sole expense of Lady Franklin to discover traces of the missing Expedition.

The public are now familiar with the melancholy narrative of that officer. We know that after Sir John Franklin died, the survivors, numbering 105, abandoned the ships in the spring of 1848, and proceeded on their way to the Great Fish River. The relics which are now exhibited in the United Service Institution,

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and which have so much engaged the attention of the London public as to force us into an elucidation of the truly noble-hearted scheme that Dr. King projected to succour these poor fellows, indicate simply so many milestones of their route, as they endeavoured to beat their way to where Dr. King knew they would be found. We know that these relics were the travelling equipments of many brave men who at last succumbed to death. We know that Franklin's ships were wrecked close to King William Land—an island lying off the Western Land of North Somerset. We know that death-traces of the Expedition were found on the south shore of King William Land; on the continent of America, at Point Ogle; and at Montreal Island, which is in the estuary of Great Fish River. And we know that if the authorities at home had taken the counsel of Dr. King, and availed themselves of his practical services, a considerable number of Englishmen would have been rescued. If credence can be placed in the statements of the Esquimaux, we know that the party of 105 was reduced to

forty. But we do not know whether they are alive or dead. They cannot be calculated as having, like their lost comrades, "dropped as they walked along." They may have separated into detached bands—trusting to meet again in the course of their perilous wanderings. It has been attempted to chill the aspirations of the people, who have a right to learn the destiny of those forty men. Though England has lost bold and adventurous sons while engaged in "cold crusades against Nature;" though she has offered up the noblest sacrifice on the altar of science; and though the North-West Passage will ever be closed by icy barriers against her trade and commerce—the people demand that the fate of the remnant of the Expedition be brought to the light of day. The conviction grows stronger day after day—and the impulse receives strength from those circles who congregate at the United Service Institution Rooms at Whitehall—that some of our countrymen have adopted the forlorn alternative of domesticating themselves to the habits and usages of the Esquimaux tribes who annually herd around the estuary of the Great Fish River.

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Towards that direction the people would have found in Dr. King and Commander Pim, of the Royal Navy, two practical and energetic pioneers. Why, it is only three years since both these gentlemen memorialised the Admiralty, and proposed a combined effort by sea and land—an Expedition which, if it had been accepted, would have been directed to the grounds where relics and records were found by M'Clintock. Even subsequent to this proposal, Dr. King, founding his project upon a report furnished from the Hudson Bay settlements, that twelve of Franklin's men were alive and located on the shores of the Great Fish River, addressed the Board of Admiralty explanatory of the plan of operating by sea and land. No answer was ever given to this appeal. It will require but little effort on the part of the British people to compel the Executive Government to perform a great national duty—a duty which has prompted this zealous geographer to actions high above the fawning artifices of State parasites—a duty which incites to virtuous patriotism, and to the noblest offices of generosity.

The *Morning Star*, 5th January, '60.

The Asian mystery is a great perplexity; it has never been cleared up. Mr. Disraeli gave us Rembrandtish adumbrations of it, but even his practised perspicacity failed to extricate its secret. There is, however, a mystery nearer home, and which concerns us more to have cleared up, and that is the constitution of the official mind. It ought to be something very profound, for it is very unfathomable. The people appear to have no plummet which can sound it. There is every prospect of a cable being laid down between Great Britain and America—there is no prospect of any telegraphic communication ever being established between the Admiralty and public opinion. The rock, shallows, and chasms—the undercurrents of patronage, the strong winds of political chicanery, defeat all attempts to connect cases of public suffering and official sensibility.

Why was it left to Lady Franklin to rescue England from the infamy of per-

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mitting its noblest band of Arctic navigators to perish in obscurity? The sagacity, courage, and public spirit of a woman have transcended the collective judgment, penetration, and enterprise of the great board which regulates our naval affairs. In the face of this immense fact, may we not stand excused, if we do not bow with the alacrity of humility to the vaticinations of these latent-minded lords, when they propose to spend millions to prevent war, in a manner the most likely of all that could be devised to make it? Lady Franklin makes "vain entreaties," reports the officer of the Fox, who writes the history of her great expedition in the pages of the *Cornhill Magazine*. "Vain entreaties" to the Lords of the Admiralty. Years had been lost in this way. Why are her requests unattended to? What insensibility or fatuity operates upon our naval board? Sir Roderick Murchison, General Sabine, and most distinguished Arctic officers, are quite clear that more remained to be done. It appears that the Admiralty had voted Dr. Rae £10,000 for testimony which cleared up the matter—in *their* opinion; and

to re-open the question would be to stultify themselves. We know that "wretches sometimes hang, that jurymen may dine," but it appears that a hundred Arctic heroes may perish rather than certain Admiralty lords shall be known to stultify themselves. We do not see why they should be so coy of stultifying themselves—they have done it often enough. Could not these naval authorities have rewarded Dr. Rae in some way which left them open to the admission of new evidence? We know that petty parochial and other committees frequently perplex their muddy brains, by voting something to-day as absolute, which the next day shows them to be most undeterminate and transient; but their having voted it absolute, absolute it must remain—they cannot "stultify" themselves. The hopeless imbeciles cannot see that there is no stultification so complete and so contemptible, as that of persisting in error after you know it to be error. A Transatlantic thinker, who is an authority in the old world as well as the new, has well said that "a weak consistency is the disease of little minds." This

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appears to have been the affliction of the Admiralty in the Sir John Franklin matter. Every day we find peacock-headed men, strutting before the world, taking pride in their feathers, which they hope will draw attention from their depletion of brains. They have hopelessly and disastrously blundered in the dark, and they shut their eyes against all new light, and vote it not to be light, in the hope of persuading the public how well they have been seeing. Thus the Lords of the Admiralty trust to convince the public that they are cat-eyed, and can see best without light; and, having settled matters with Dr. Rae, they lend only deaf ears and closed eyes to the appeals of humanity and evidence of science. By all means let the dignity of the official mind be maintained—it needs it: but we submit that this may be done without leaving heroes to perish. Let “my lords” give up the folly of final resolutions in open matters, and fear no stultification like that of doing nothing where humanity, science, and public reputation demand prompt and indefatigable action.

The last number of *Once a Week* contained a portraiture of another phase of the Arctic Mystery, by "Voyageur," which reveals to Englishmen a conception of official fatuity, which no man, unless his soul be absolutely saturated with red tape, can hear of without blushes and indignation. So early as February, 1845, Dr. King, himself a distinguished Arctic traveller, and eminent physician of Savile-row, began to address the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, who is now the Earl of Derby; pointing out, before Sir John Franklin sailed, that an expedition by sea was a "forlorn hope," and that an overland journey was the thing. "My lords" issue contrary instructions to Franklin, who sails in May. Seeing that Dr. King's prediction proved true, it entitled him to be regarded subsequently as a well-informed adviser. In 1845 the Erebus and Terror are seen in Baffin's Bay for the last time. The Earl of Derby having declined to send an expedition by land in search of Sir John Franklin, Dr. King, in 1847, makes a vain attempt to induce Earl Grey, the new Secretary for the Colonies, to do

it. Dr. King's prediction proved true, it entitled him to be regarded subsequently as a well-informed adviser. In 1845 the Erebus and Terror are seen in Baffin's Bay for the last time. The Earl of Derby having declined to send an expedition by land in search of Sir John Franklin, Dr. King, in 1847, makes a vain attempt to induce Earl Grey, the new Secretary for the Colonies, to do

it. Dr. King says to him, "My lord, one hundred and thirty-eight men are at this moment in imminent danger of perishing by famine." Four times this year the warning entreaty is sung to Lord Grey's official ears, by the indefatigable Dr. King; but how could his lordship be expected to stultify his noble predecessor, by doing in 1847 what the said predecessor had declined to do in 1845? True, Sir John Franklin and his noble companions were dropping dead, day by day, as with streaming eyes of longing and agony they looked towards fatherland, in the hope that noble lords at the head of affairs would send some succour out to them. But let scurvy kill—let the parting ice-floe suck them in—let the heart of the lost grow sick and break by hope deferred—but let not official etiquette be violated. In this case "my lords" were not perplexed by various plans or many counsellors. There were few able to say what ought to be done: of those few, Dr. King, who had himself in 1835 won renown in an overland search for Sir John Ross, spoke with personal authority. He knew the ground, the method of reaching it, and

volunteered to make the attempt. He said precisely where the missing expedition was to be found—and the result has proved the accuracy of his knowledge. But, generous and brave as well as sagacious, Dr. King told Earl Grey he did not want to make a place for himself—he was “not soliciting employment;” but he would relinquish “five appointments of honour and emolument,” and ask of their lordships no compensation, if, for the “sake of humanity,” they would send him out. Offers like this—an example of this quality—demanded some cordial recognition if unhappily it was unaccepted. In March, 1848, Mr. H. G. Ward acquaints Dr. King, in cold and sardonic terms, that “My lords have no intention of altering their present arrangements, or of making any other that will require his assistance, or force him to make those sacrifices he appears to contemplate.” Yet “so lately as 1850,” says the narrative from which we quote the words in *Once a Week*, “some of Sir John Franklin’s party were absolutely *alive* upon the Great Fish River.” But we need not pursue the frightful narrative much further. The writer of it, though

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he speaks in pages which eschew political judgments, cannot help saying what we shall repeat with more emphasis—"Sir John Franklin's companions died the victims less of those perils of their profession, which they were prepared to encounter, than of official apathy, or at least of mistaken judgment." In another place he says, "Englishmen must decide which." The rigours of the northern seas—the bleak and foodless regions of eternal snows, braved by the noble band of Arctic adventurers, were less searing and deadly than the frozen temperature of the official board at home.

The Esquimaux woman who tells the story of the last Arctic victim of the "Foul Anchor," relates:—

"One of the crew died upon Montreal Island.

"The rest perished on the coast of the main land.

"The wolves were very thick.

"Only one man was living when their tribe arrived.

"Him it was too late to save.

"He was large and strong, and sat on

the sandy beach, his head resting on his hand; and thus he died."

What thought that poor wretch of "my lords" at home? The last survivor of one hundred and thirty-eight, what tale might he not have to tell, had he not looked speechless and dying into the faces of the tribe, more merciful than lords at home, who came up also too late? He turned his face again towards home, whence no help was ever to come. That spot of Arctic beach, with the abandoned, dying, and solitary survivor upon it, should be perpetuated in marble and placed for evermore at the entrance of the Admiralty office. A cartoon of the same subject would not be misplaced in the lobby of the House of Commons.

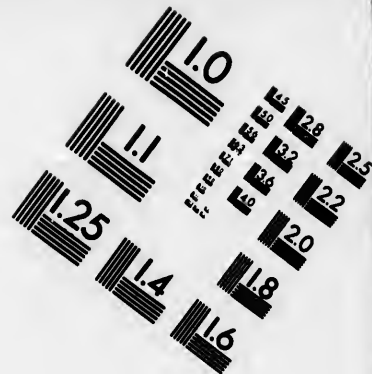
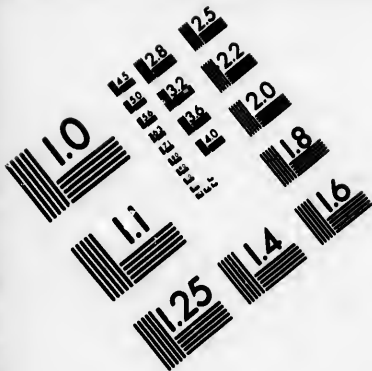
The Morning Chronicle, 14th Nov., '59.

For aught Englishmen know, many of the companions of Franklin may yet live. It is not at all certain that a large portion of the hapless band of 105 which abandoned the *Erebus* and *Terror* in April, '48, and attempted to reach Great Fish River,

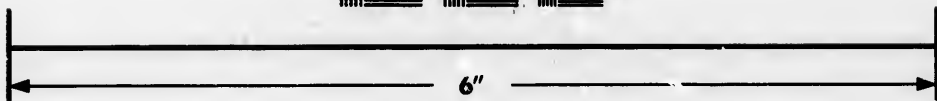
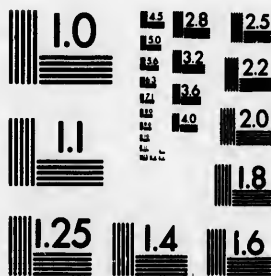
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does not still look for its deliverers. The chances are, no doubt, against it. Cold, fatigue, and famine have, it is probable, destroyed these gallant spirits. There is, however, no evidence that they have been overtaken by such a fate; possibly, some may still survive. M'Clintock has, indeed, dispelled all hope of the return of their brave leader; and of him, save *in memoriam*, we have not to speak any more. But brave and adventurous as he was—a personification of the whole expedition to the general public—the men who, under his command, displayed the same daring, have claims as strong upon the British nation. So long as there is still a belief in the possibility of their existence professed by men who themselves are familiar with the fearful regions, in which they either linger on in ever fainter hope, or have long since given up the struggle; so long the British nation, in whose name they undertook their voyage, is bound in honour not to desist from its attempts to save them. It is true, the nation has repudiated the obligation. When Rae brought back tidings which really only went to induce a belief in the probability





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of the death of the whole party, but which did not give the slightest clue to their history, it was assumed that all further search would be in vain, and those who represented the nation declared that nothing more should be done. We were to wear our mourning, and then dismiss the poor creatures from our minds. The injustice and folly of that repudiation, and determination not to meddle more in the matter, have, however, been shown clearly by the discoveries of M'Clintock. The search was not, as we were told, a useless exposure of valuable lives. We have acquired a certainty of Franklin's death; we know where the ships are, and where and how the years which preceded the abandonment were spent. We have learned it at the cost of Lady Franklin.

Repudiation need not, however, be perpetual. Nations may repent as well as individuals, and we ask Englishmen to say that they have erred, to admit that they were deceived into the abandonment of their duty, and to demand from the Government a further search for the crews of the Erebus and Terror.

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Such an appeal, we allow, requires for its justification the existence of reasonable grounds, for hoping, either that these members of the Expedition unaccounted for are still alive, or that their fate, however sad it may have been, can be discovered. All these grounds do justify the appeal. Dr. King, who has himself descended Great Fish River—the point to which, be it remembered, Crozier and Fitzjames directed their course—and who is, consequently, well acquainted with the district in which the interest of search would centre, has expressed, in the lecture delivered by him at Brighton the other day, his belief that some of the party may still survive. If they are all dead, some particulars of their fate may be discovered. Now, an opinion of this kind ought not to be neglected. Dr. King, who knows the country, asserts the possibility of the existence of some of the crew in it; and if there is such a possibility, an attempt ought to be made to ascertain the fact. Dr. King also pointed out that it would be most desirable to reach the abandoned ships, the position of which is clearly marked out in the document

found by M'Clintock; and which an expedition, availing itself of the proper season, and directing its attention to the special object, might effect without much difficulty. He thinks that the results of the observations made by Franklin might thus be obtained; and, however that might be, it is much to be wished that the ships should be visited, and as many particulars as possible of the voyage gleaned.

That, however, is a minor consideration; the great point is the fate of the men. Dr. King, who speaks with authority—and his views are shared by other persons of Arctic experience—tells us that some of them may be alive; at all events, that their doom may be discovered. Why, then, should not an expedition to Great Fish River be at once organised?

The cost of another search will be but a trifle; the most vehement Financial Reformer would not, we are confident, oppose such an idea in the Miscellaneous Estimates. Volunteers in plenty will undertake the task; and if brave men are prepared to risk their own lives in a reasonable hope of saving those of their fellow-coun-

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trymen, or, at the worst, of being able to perform the last pious offices to their remains, it would be disgraceful to stay them.

Prudence and economy are very good things, but the paltry prudence and petty economy which would neglect the chance of saving human life, because life might be risked and money must be spent in the attempt, are the most hideous vices that can stain a powerful nation.

Dublin University Magazine, 1 February, '60.

The only man in England who proposed an *effectual* plan for the relief of Franklin, was Dr. Richard King, of Savile-row, who, on the 10th of June, 27th of November, 1847, and February 1848, in letters to the Admiralty, urged the absolute necessity of an expedition in the spring of 1848, to the mouth of the Great Fish River, with which locality he was well acquainted; offering to go himself, in conjunction with any officer the Admiralty might name.

This rational proposal, the adoption of

which would have saved Crozier and Fitzjames, and a large proportion of the 105 survivors, was shelved by referring it to the Arctic Council; who, with the honourable and single exception of Captain Beechey, were unanimous in rejecting it: Dr. King's proposal, doubtless, seeming to them not only erroneous in principle, but premature in point of time; as but few of those supposed to be well informed in Arctic and scientific matters could bring themselves to believe in the possibility of disaster to so well-appointed an Expedition.

It is worth while to place on record some of the opinions given on Dr. King's proposal:—

“*Sir John Richardson.*—With respect to the Great Fish River, he did not think, under any circumstances, Sir John Franklin would attempt that route.

“*Sir James Ross.*—I cannot conceive any position in which The Franklin Expedition could be placed, from which they would make for the Great Fish River.

“*Sir George Back.*—You will be pleased, sir, to impress on my Lords Commissioners,

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that I wholly reject all and every idea of any attempt on the part of Sir John Franklin, to send boats or detachments over the ice to any point of the mainland in the vicinity of the Great Fish River."

Truly, age does not confer experience—neither experience, wisdom. Dr. King was finally silenced by a *polite* note from the Secretary of the Admiralty, informing him that his services were not required, and that it was unnecessary for him to make the professional sacrifices which he appeared to contemplate. Thus vanished the *first* and *only* hope of saving the lives of any of the officers and crews of the Erebus and Terror. Hundreds of lives risked, and thousands of pounds spent, in ill-conceived though ably carried out projects of exploration; and, by a singular fatality, every corner of the Arctic Archipelago was searched except the right one,—and this last corner was finally explored by a private expedition, which has not yet received any public reward for its success. Upon the gallant M'Clintock, the leader of this successful search, honours have been heaped from various quarters. The Uni-

versity of Dublin hastened to enrol his name, *honoris causâ*, among those of her most highly honoured sons; the City of London has conferred upon him her citizens' Freedom; the City of Dublin has presented him with a public address, at a large and most influential meeting of citizens convened by the Lord Mayor; and his native town of Dundalk has shown her sense of the honour conferred upon her by the brave deeds of her son; but, as yet, no public recognition by the Government has taken place of the success of those who brought home to England "the only authentic intelligence" of the fate of Franklin and his brave followers.

Once a Week, 31st December, '59.

A PHASE OF THE ARCTIC MYSTERY.

The details of the expedition sent out by Lady Franklin in the steam yacht *Fox*, shortly will be, if they are not already, before the public.

Sir John Franklin, as we learn, died as

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early as June 11th, 1847. His ships the Erebus and Terror were beset on September 12th, 1846, in lat. $70^{\circ} 05' N.$, and long. $88^{\circ} 23' W.$ On 22nd April, 1848, the ships were abandoned five leagues N.N.W. of Point Victory, King William's Island, where 105 survivors under Captain Crozier landed, and on April 25th deposited in a cairn the records brought home by Captain M'Clintock.

That gallant officer, with Lieutenant Hobson, made a minute search of the whole coast of King William's Island, and on its south shore found death-traces of members of the expedition, at a point exactly opposite that portion of the mainland of North America, whence the relics sent home in 1854, and now in Greenwich Hospital, had been procured, viz., Point Ogle, a cape at the mouth of the Great Fish River, and Montreal Island in its estuary.

It is impossible to rise from the perusal of Captain M'Clintock's journal, without the absolute conviction that the late Sir John Franklin's companions died the victims, less of those perils of their profession which they were naturally prepared to

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encounter, than of official apathy, or at least of mistaken judgment.

The following facts, arranged in order of date, are relied on to prove that this representation is correct.

It is to be borne in mind, that King William's Island lies off the west land of North Somerset, and that the silent but terribly convincing testimony of the bleached skeletons on the way, proves that, from the moment of landing on Point Victory, the survivors were struggling in a death-flight for the Great Fish River.

12th Dec., 1844.—"My Lords" Commissioners of the Admiralty resolve upon another expedition by sea in search of the North West Passage, and appoint Sir John Franklin to the command.

20th Feb., 1845.—A distinguished Arctic traveller and eminent physician, Dr. King, of Savile-row, who, so far back as 1835, had acquired renown as medical officer and second in command of an overland journey in search of Sir John Ross,—hearing of the proposed expedition by sea, and regarding it, to use his own phrase, as a "forlorn hope,"—addresses to the Secretary

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of State for the Colonies, Lord Stanley, now the Earl of Derby, a proposal for a land journey by the Great Fish River, to aid the Franklin expedition in its geographical survey.

5th May, 1845.—"My Lords" issue their instructions to Sir John Franklin, who sails with the Erebus and Terror.

26th July, 1845.—The ships are seen in Baffin Bay, *for the last time.*

10th June, 1847.—Dr. King writes to Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies, "My Lord, one hundred and thirty-eight men are at this moment in imminent danger of perishing by famine;" he regrets that Lord Stanley does not entertain the proposition for a land journey by the Great Fish River, renews his proposal, shows how it can be carried out, assigns the western land of North Somerset as the position of the lost expedition, points out that if Sir John Franklin is to be relieved, it must be in the summer of 1848, and implores permission to render him "the only succour which has the probability of success."

25th Nov., 1847.—Dr. King again ad-

dresses Earl Grey, Lord Stanley's successor in the administration of the Colonial Department: "The last ray of hope has passed that Sir John Franklin by his own exertions can save himself and his one hundred and thirty-seven followers from the death of starvation. I trust, therefore, your Lordship will excuse my calling your attention to my letter of 10th June last, which is acknowledged, but which remains unanswered." Dr. King argues most ably the geographical question, and once more begs to be allowed a place in "the great effort which must be made for the rescue of the one hundred and thirty-eight men who compose the lost expedition."

8th Dec., 1847.—Dr. King, for the third time, addresses Earl Grey on the subject of a new expedition, proposed by the Admiralty, to search the coast of North America for Franklin, from the Mackenzie to the Coppermine rivers, with Wollaston land, opposite that coast, in 1848, and Victoria land in the summer of 1849. He also offers to go at once by the Great Fish River to Victoria land, as well as to the western land of North Somerset.

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16th Dec., 1847.—Dr. King acknowledges the receipt of a reply from Lord Grey, desiring him to address any application he may desire to make, to “My Lords” of the Admiralty. Dr. King regrets that Earl Grey should have delayed his answer from June to December, because, if anything is to be done, it must be in progress by February. He explains that he is not “soliciting employment,” but “endeavouring to induce Earl Grey to take the necessary measures for saving the lives of one hundred and thirty-eight fellow-creatures;” adding that he does not ask Earl Grey to make good the loss he would sustain by giving up his private practice and five appointments of honour and emolument—a loss which cannot be measured by a money standard, but that he “comes forward again only for the sake of humanity.”

16th Feb., 1848.—Dr. King writes to “My Lords,” repeating fully his arguments as to the western land of North Somerset, and undertaking to do in one summer what has not before been done under two; he also explains how he can do it, and again volunteers to go by the Great Fish River.

3rd March, 1848.—Dr. King complains to Mr. H. G. Ward, Secretary to “My Lords,” that he has received no reply to his letter of February 16th; states that March 15th is the latest period at which he should feel justified in starting on this expedition, and requests early information of their Lordships’ decision, as he will have to make arrangements to vacate his professional appointments.

3rd March, 1848.—Mr. H. G. Ward is commanded by “My Lords” to acquaint Dr. King that “they have no intention of altering their present arrangements, or of making any others that will require his assistance, or force him to make the sacrifices he appears to contemplate.”

18th Feb., 1850.—Dr. King again urges on “My Lords” the overland expedition by the Great Fish River, and is strengthened in his convictions by the unsuccessful results of the various attempts to relieve Franklin by sea.

28th Feb., 1850.—“My Lords” must decline the offer of Dr. King’s services.

19th July, 1854.—Dr. Rae, a Chief Factor in the service of the Hudson Bay Com-

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pany, engaged in completing a survey of the west coast of Boothia, writing from Repulse Bay, reports to "My Lords" that on the 17th April he has met with Esquimaux in Pelly Bay, from whom he gathered, "that in the spring, four winters past (spring, 1850), a party of forty white men were seen travelling southward over the ice. * * * At a later date in the same season, the bodies of thirty were discovered on the continent, and five on an island near it, about a long day's journey N.W. of the Oot-ko-hi-ca-lik."* The land is, as Dr. Rae states, Point Ogle, and the island Montreal Island, in the Great Fish River.

20th June, 1855.—Mr. James Anderson, a Chief Factor in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, started for the Great Fish River, and returned on 17th September. He found on Montreal Island absolute proofs of the truth of the Esquimaux story, as related to Dr. Rae.

So lately as 1850, some of Sir John Franklin's party were absolutely alive upon the GREAT FISH RIVER.

* Oot-ko-hi-ca-lik is the Esquimaux name for Great Fish River.

We cannot venture to do more than offer the above facts to our readers. We dare not trust ourselves to comment on them. Englishmen must decide between Dr. King and the successive Secretaries of State and Admiralty Boards, who disregarded a proposal, by which it is now clear that this remnant might have been saved.

“My Lords” were too official to entertain the right proposal; can they now be touched by the story of an Esquimaux woman who records the fate of the *last Arctic victim* to the “Foul Anchor?” Let them listen:

“One of the lost crew died upon Montreal Island.

“The rest perished on the coast of the mainland.

“The wolves were very thick.

“Only one man was living when their tribe arrived.

“Him it was too late to save.

“He was large and strong, and sat on the sandy beach, his head resting on his hand; and thus he died.”

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British Medical Journal, 1st October, '59.

Captain M'Clintock's return in the Fox yacht, and the results of his search for the remains of The Franklin Expedition, give to British perseverance another claim to the title "indomitable," and afford another proof that, with the Briton, to fail implies success. But, amidst the congratulation attendant on the completion of a task that has so often been attempted, and the regrets at the confirmation of our worst anticipations with regard to the fate of Sir John Franklin's gallant crews, we must not forget that a member of our own profession urged with untiring pertinacity upon the authorities, so long as there was a chance of rescuing a single survivor, the adoption of a plan of relief which events have proved would have been attended with the happiest results; and subsequently, after the hope of saving life had become vain, with equal pertinacity urged a similar plan of search for the remains of the missing expedition. To Dr. King belongs the honour of pointing out the true path to the final resting-

place of The Franklin Expedition. In February '47, Dr. King wrote to the authorities, to state his fears for the safety of the expedition, volunteering his services to conduct by Great Fish River a party for its relief. Again and again was this offer of service repeated. The authorities were, of course, deaf to Dr. King's arguments. Not deterred by official obduracy, or rather stimulated by it, Dr. King has during the past ten or twelve years done his utmost to keep the public mind interested in the fate of his lost countrymen; agitating at one and the same time in the cause of humanity and of national honour. So lately as December '56, Dr. King, in co-operation with Captain Bedford Pim, proposed to the Government a joint land and sea expedition, which, humanly speaking, would have given, had it been permitted, the most complete elucidation to the Franklin mystery. Surely, for such perseverance in so noble a cause, Dr. King deserves some fitting tribute.

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The Weekly Dispatch, 9th October, '59.

RED TAPE AND SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

The gentlemen who administered our naval affairs between the years '45 and '54 have now the pleasure of knowing, that the reasons why the companions of Sir John Franklin were starved and frozen to death were, next to cold and hunger, the official insolence and corruption of the Lords of the Admiralty. From Dr. King's work, entitled "The Franklin Expedition from First to Last," it appears that if they had only taken Dr. King's advice in 1847, they would have found the members of the Franklin Expedition living in the very spot where Captain M'Clintock discovered their skeletons. Dr. King had considerable claims to the attention of the Admiralty. He had taken part in, and for some time commanded, the successful expedition in search of Sir John Ross. Thus he was not only a practical, but a practised Arctic investigator. His experience in that capacity led him, in the first instance, before

the departure of Sir John Franklin, to project a land-party of explorers who should co-operate with the naval expedition. This plan he submitted to the Colonial Secretary, the present Earl Derby, proposing that he himself should be joined in the command of the auxiliaries. His suggestion was disregarded. In June, '47, fears began to be entertained for the fate of the *Erebus* and *Terror*. He then wrote to Lord Grey, who had succeeded Lord Stanley in office, a letter in which he pointed out as probable those very particulars with regard to the Franklin Expedition which the search of Captain M'Clintock has actually verified. This letter received a mere formal acknowledgment — no reply. Five months afterwards Dr. King wrote Lord Grey a second letter, which this time received the compliment of an answer from the courteous nobleman's second, Mr. Hawes, referring him to the Lords of the Admiralty. If this answer had been returned to Dr. King's first letter, no particular blame could have attached to Lord Grey. He was not bound to know Dr. King, nor to be acquainted with anybody's business but his

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own, which was *that of administering Colonial government, a work wherein he was so eminently successful and gave such universal satisfaction.* His Lordship would not have been chargeable with the insulting negligence of giving no answer to an important letter. Dr. King then applied to the Admiralty, having previously apprised Earl Grey of the reasons which disinclined him to address his application to that quarter. His views with regard to Arctic discoveries differed from those of the Admiralty, with this material aggravation of their offensiveness, that they had been proved correct.

He had offered to administer medical relief to the suffering crew of the steamer L'Eclair. My Lords suppressed his name in the return made to the House of Commons of the officers and men who volunteered to serve on the occasion to which he alluded. There was thus a lie between my Lords and Dr. King, and little doubt with which party the lie rested.

The suppression of truth is as great a lie as the assertion of falsehood, and, according to Dr. King, my Lords had told the former lie. However, he swallowed the contumely,

the injustice, and the mendacity of my Lords, and wrote them a letter in which he pointed out that Sir John Franklin had probably been arrested between Melville Island and Bank's Land, had made for the American Continent, turned to south and west towards Victoria or Wollaston Lands, and had probably been wrecked thereabouts. In this very locality M'Clintock found the mouldering remains of the Expedition. My Lords of the Admiralty imitated the gracious conduct of my Lord Grey. They left Dr. King's letter without an answer. He therefore wrote to the Secretary requesting to know my Lords' decision, in order that he might make arrangements to vacate his various professional appointments in case my Lords should determine to employ him. The following was the reply:—"I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that they have no intention of altering their present arrangements, or of making any others that will require your assistance, or force you to make the sacrifice which you appear to contemplate." This was my Lords' answer to

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a proposal to hazard life, and to sacrifice interest, for the chance of rescuing the gallant commander and crew who are now skeletons because it was not accepted. From any future edition of the "Complete Letter Writer," that epistle must not be omitted. It is a splendid example of a *regular official*, pointed by a vulgar sarcasm. Whether the latter was an effort of my Lords' own satirical powers, dictated to their humble servant who penned it; whether it was the work of that menial having general instructions, or "the office," as the thieves say, given him to be insolent; or whether it was a lackey's gratuitous addition to the rebuff which he was ordered to convey, cannot perhaps be ascertained. But why did the offer of Dr. King's valuable services meet, at the hands of my Lords, with rejection accompanied by insult? It appears, from two causes which until lately have been in constant and strong operation at the Admiralty, Dr. King was unpopular with my Lords, and my Lords wanted to exercise patronage. Spite on the one hand, and partiality on the other, have long been the two great principles presiding over

my Lords who presided over the Navy. Valuable officers shelved for life, inefficient, doting, decrepit commanders appointed to the most important charges, have been the familiar instances of the influence of those two great motives on my Lords. In the meantime, France distances us in naval progress, and England has lost her supremacy, if not her equality, on the sea. My Lords, such Lords as those who cast aside Dr. King, have ever been insolent in exact proportion to their incapacity, which was always vast, and they have been uniformly remarkable chiefly for superciliousness and favouritism. May we hope that my present Lords are altogether another kind of men, and that the loss of the Erebus and Terror will not prove ominous of the ruin of the British Navy!

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The *Medical Times*, 8th October, '59.

The news recently brought home as to the fate of Sir John Franklin, shows very remarkably the fault committed by Government in neglecting to follow the advice of

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a well-known member of our profession, Dr. King. It is now known that Franklin's ships were wrecked close to an island—King William Island—lying off the western land of North Somerset; and traces of the expedition have been found on the southern shore of this island, at Point Ogle, on the continent of America, and at Montreal Island, in the estuary of the Great Fish River. Now, in February, '45, Dr. King proposed to Lord Grey, then Colonial Secretary, to go by Great Fish River to the western land of North Somerset to aid The Franklin Expedition in its survey. Two years afterwards, when anxiety was felt for the fate of the expedition, Dr. King made his second offer to Lord Grey to go by the same route to the same coast to search for and assist the expedition in its difficulty. The letter making this offer was dated 10th of June, '47, and, curiously enough, it is now shown that Franklin died on the 11th of June, one day only after this letter was written, near the very spot which Dr. King proposed to explore. After Franklin's death, it appears from the records found by M'Clintock, 105 survivors

were on the road to Great Fish River, in April '48; so that had Dr. King's proposals of '45 and '47 been accepted, he must have met the party and rescued them. Year after year Dr. King reiterated his warnings and offers, and in '56 memorialised the Admiralty to arrange a combined effort by sea and land, again directed to the precise spot where the remains of the expedition have been found. Had his offers been accepted, not only would our gallant countrymen have been rescued, but no necessity would have arisen for the expeditions of Ross, Richardson, Collinson, Austin, Penny, Belcher, or Kellet, at a Government expense of two millions; nor for the private expeditions under Ross, Kennedy, and M'Clintock, or the American efforts of De Haven and Kane. We do not mention this in any spirit of vain regret, but to point out that a summer land search up Great Fish River would be devoid of danger, would be inexpensive, and might be successful in rescuing some of the 105 survivors, all of whom can scarcely have perished in a country where there is plenty of game.

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The *Lancet*, 1st October, '59.

The medical officers who have accompanied those Arctic expeditions which have so greatly glorified the name of English seamen and honoured English enterprise, have always been distinguished for the intelligent contributions, embodying the results of the voyages, which they have offered to the literary and scientific world. Among the most distinguished of Arctic medical officers is Dr. King, whose published works have attested equally his zealous devotion to the great Arctic question and his intimate acquaintance with the geographical and meteorological relations of this *terra incognita*.

When the continued absence of the Franklin party first excited the fears of English seamen, and became the subject of comment among the *savans*, Dr. King discussed with great minuteness and ingenuity the probability of The Expedition having taken one of the several routes open to them, and maintained that they must evidently have taken the route towards

Great Fish River. These views Dr. King again and again brought before the attention of the Admiralty, and volunteered to conduct an expedition in the presumed route of the ill-fated party, which might have been arranged with ease and at little cost. At the very time that he was pressing his offer upon the Government, Sir John Franklin and his devoted followers were traversing that path and pursuing the very course which he marked out. The reasons which Dr. King adduced were fully stated, and so powerful was their united bearing that one would imagine that only a foregone acquaintance with other facts not known to Dr. King could have justified the refusal on the part of the authorities to entertain his proposition. It now appears that they were not in possession of any such facts, and the motives which operated to prevent them from allowing Dr. King to follow up the traces of these brave and devoted men are as mysterious as that refusal has been disastrous and deplorable.

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TABU

THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION

FROM

FIRST TO LAST.

TABULAR FORM OF CONTENTS.

THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION,

BY

DR. KING, M.D.

LETTER.	DATE.	TITLE OF LETTER.	ADDRESSED.	PAGE.
1	20 Feb. '45.	Offer to go by Great Fish River to W. Land of N. Somerset, to aid The Franklin Expedition in its Geographical Survey.	Lord Stanley, now Earl Derby, Colonial Sec.	5
2	10 June, '47.	Offer to go by Great Fish River to W. Land of N. Somerset, to search for The Franklin Expedition in its difficulty.	Earl Grey, Colonial Sec.	12
3	25 Nov. '47.	"	Earl Grey, Colonial Sec.	29
4	8 Dec. '47.	"	Earl Grey, Colonial Sec.	42
5	16 Feb. '48.	"	Earl of Auckland. Admiralty.	55
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8	18 Feb. '50.	"	Earl of Auckland. Admiralty.	69
9	23 Jan. '56.	Offer to go by Great Fish River to W. Land of N. Somerset,	Sir F. T. Baring. Admiralty. Sir James Graham, Admiralty.	76 212

5	16 Feb. '45.			Admiralty.	86
6	3 March, '48.	"		Earl of Auckland. Admiralty.	89
8	18 Feb. '50.	"		Sir F. T. Baring. Admiralty.	76
9	23 Jan. '56.	Offer to go by Great Fish River to W. Land of N. Somerset, to search for the remains of The Franklin Expedition.		Sir James Graham, Admiralty.	213
10	8 Dec. '56.	Offer to go by Great Fish River to W. Land of N. Somerset, in conjunction with Commander Finn, R.N.		Sir Charles Wood, Admiralty.	225
11	15 Feb. '57.	Offer to go by Great Fish River to search for Twelve Survivors of The Franklin Expedition.		Sir Charles Wood, Admiralty.	237
12	20 Jan. '60.	Above sent to private address of every Member of House of Commons. Offers to go by Great Fish River to search for The Franklin Expedition.		Duke of Newcastle. Colonial Sec.	255

HAD THIS OFFER BEEN ACCEPTED, 105 LIVES AND £2,000,000 WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED.

PRIVATE PARTIES
DISPATCHED A SERIES OF EXPEDITIONS

IN SEARCH OF

THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION,

AT THREE DIFFERENT PERIODS.

COST, NOT KNOWN.

<i>First Period.</i>	<i>Second Period.</i>	<i>Third Period.</i>
POLAR SEA EXPEDITION. (Three Vessels) under Lieutenant de Haven, (American). Sir John Ross, Commander Forsyth, (English).	POLAR SEA EXPEDITION. (Two Vessels) under Dr. Kane, (American). Captain Kennedy, (English).	POLAR SEA EXPEDITION. (One Vessel) under Captain McClintock.

RESULTS:

First and Second Periods;—nothing. *Third Period*;—evidence of the Wreck of The Franklin Expedition, and that 105 survivors had made for Great Fish River, 25 April, '48.

THE GOVERNMENT

DISPATCHED A SERIES OF EXPEDITIONS

IN SEARCH OF

RESULTS:

First and Second Periods;—nothing. *Third Period*;—evidence of the Wreck of The Franklin Expedition, and that 105 survivors had made for Great Fish River, 25 April, '48.

THE GOVERNMENT
DISPATCHED A SERIES OF EXPEDITIONS
IN SEARCH OF
THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION,
AT THREE DIFFERENT PERIODS.
COST, TWO MILLIONS.

<i>First Period.</i>	<i>Second Period.</i>	<i>Third Period.</i>
POLAR SEA EXPEDITION. (Four Vessels) under Sir James Ross and Captain Moore.	POLAR SEA EXPEDITION. (Eight Vessels) under Captain Collinson, Captain Austin, and Captain Penny.	POLAR SEA EXPEDITION. (Four Vessels) under Sir Edward Belcher and Captain Kellett.
POLAR LAND JOURNEY, under Sir John Richardson, R.N.		POLAR LAND JOURNEY, under Mr. Anderson.

RESULTS:

First Period;—nothing. *Second Period*;—the fact, and the fact only (for no record was found) of the first wintering of The Franklin Expedition at Beechy Island. *Third Period*;—traces through the Polar Land Journey of The Franklin Expedition having reached Great Fish River.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"DR. KING pointed out the locality where the relics of The Franklin Expedition have been found, as a likely spot to find them."—*Spectator*.

"DR. KING is the one man whose unheeded foresight certain information has since completely justified."—*Examiner*.

"DR. KING speaks with authority, and his views are shared with other persons of Arctic experience. He tells us that some of The Franklin Expedition may be alive; at all events, that their doom may be discovered."—*Morning Chronicle*, 14.11.'59.

"Could human foresight more accurately have indicated the time, the place, the nature of the catastrophe, and the means for averting it, than that of DR. KING, in his offer to search for The Franklin Expedition in '47."—*Naval and Military Gazette*, 5.11.'59.

"Had the Admiralty accepted the offer of DR. KING, those whose bones are bleaching under a Polar Sky, would be alive and at home."—*Star*, 12.1.'60.

"Had DR. KING been listened to, The Franklin Expedition would have been discovered while yet a numerous living band."—*Morn. Post*, 4.10.'59.

"The discoveries of M'CLINTOCK in '59 confirm DR. KING's prophecies of 47 to the letter."—*Sun*, 3.10.'59.

"It is impossible not to regret most deeply that DR. KING was not permitted to go in search of The Franklin Expedition."—*Weekly Times*, 9.10.'59.

"The only man in England who proposed an *effectual* plan for the relief of Franklin was DR. KING.—*Dublin University Magazine*, Feb. '60

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