

# THE EVENING NEWS.

DR. HALL'S ARCTIC EXPLORATION—  
HIS DISCOVERIES RELATIVE TO SIR  
JOHN FRANKLIN.

The following are the principal portions of a letter kindly communicated to us by Mr. Henry Grinnell, to whom it was addressed by Dr. Hall, whose return from his Arctic exploration was lately announced:

"The result of my sledge journey to King William's Land may be summed up thus: None of Sir John Franklin's companions ever reached or died on Montreal Island. It was late in July, 1848, that Crozier and his party of about forty or fifty men passed down the west coast of King William's Land, in the vicinity of Cape Herschel. The party was dragging two sledges on the sea-ice, which was nearly in its last stage of dissolution—one a large sledge laden with an awning-covered boat, and the other a small one laden with provisions and camp material. Just before Crozier and party arrived at Cape Herschel they were met by four families of natives, and both parties went into camp near each other. Two Esquimaux men, who were of the native party, gave me much and most deeply interesting information. Some of it stirred my heart with sadness intermingled with rage, for it was a confession that they with their companions did secretly and hastily abandon Crozier and his party to suffer and die for need of fresh provisions, when, in truth, it was in the power of the natives to save every man alive. The next trace of Crozier and his party is to be found in the skeleton which McClintock discovered a little below, to the southward and eastward of Cape Herschel; this was never found by the natives. The next trace is a camping place on the sea shore of King William's Land, about three miles eastward of Peffer River, where two men died and received Christian burial. At this place fish bones were found by the natives, which showed them that Crozier and his party had caught, and then, a species of fish excellent for food, with which the sea there abounds. The next trace of this party occurs some five or six miles eastward, on a long, low point of King William's Land, where one man died and was buried. Then about S. E., two and a half miles further, the next trace occurs, on Todd's Islet, where the remains of five men lie. The next certain trace of this party is on the west side of the islet, west of Point Richardson, on some low land that is an island, or a part of the main land, as the tide may be. Here the awning-covered boat and the remains of about thirty or thirty-five of Crozier's party were found by the native Poo-yet-ta, of whom Sir John Ross has given a description in the account of his voyage in the *Victory*, 1829-34.

In the spring of 1849, a large tent was found by some of the natives whom I saw, the floor of which was completely covered with the remains of white men. Close by were two graves. The tent was a little way inland from the head of Terror Bay.

"In the spring of 1849, when the snow was nearly all gone, an Esquimaux party, conducted by a native well known throughout the northern regions, found two boats, with many skeletons in and about them. One of these boats had been previously found by McClintock; the other was found lying from one-quarter to one-half mile distant, and must have been completely entombed in snow at the time McClintock's party were there, or they most assuredly would have seen it.

"The same year that the *Erebus* and *Terror* were abandoned, one of them consumed the great Northwest passage, having five men aboard. The evidence of the exact number is circumstantial. Everything about this Northwest passage ship of Sir John Franklin's expedition was in complete order; four boats were hanging high up at the ship's sides, and one was on the quarter deck; the vessel was in its winter housing of of sail or tent cloth. This vessel was found by the Ouk-joo-lik natives near O'Reilly Island, lat. 68 deg. 30 min. N., lon. 99 deg. 50 min. W., early in the spring of 1849, it being frozen in, in the midst of a smooth and unbroken flow of ice of only one winter's formation. From certain evidence I have gained both at Igloo-lik and King William's Land, there must have been a dog of the greyhound species belonging to one or the other of the two ships. I only know this from native testimony. It is quite likely that some one in England can tell whether there was a dog on board either of the ships when Sir John Franklin left in 1845.

"To complete the history of Sir John Franklin's last expedition, one must spend a summer on King William's Land with a considerable party, whose only business should be to make searches for records which beyond doubt lie buried on that island. I am certain from what I have heard the natives say, and from what I saw myself, that little or nothing more can be gained by making searches there when the land is clothed in its winter garb. Knowing, as I do, the character of the Esquimaux in that part of the country in which King William's Land is situated, I cannot wonder at the refusal of the Repulse Bay natives, for their refusal to remain there as I desired. Wherever the Esquimaux have found the graves of Franklin's companions they have dug them open and robbed the dead, leaving them exposed to the ravages of wild beasts. On Todd's Island the remains of five men were not buried, but, after the savages had robbed them of every article that could be turned to any account for their use, their dogs were allowed to finish the disgusting work."


Dr. Hall then describes a number of relics of Sir John Franklin's expedition, which he has brought home. After relating his difficulties in obtaining men to accompany him on his search, he says:

"The result of my taking seemed that neither I nor the natives knew much about, proved as many would expect. In the fall of 1868, during a mutinous attack made upon me, when my faithful man was absent, about seven miles distant, on business, I was compelled, in self-defence, to call into requisition a revolver. Coleman, the leader, fell, and died in fifteen days. At once the rebellion ended, and one of the band came, and, like a man, acknowledged freely and truly that he and his companions were altogether the guilty men. I hoped that I would forgive him, which I did on the instant. I feel that had I not taken this last 'Grand Alternative' my fate would have been quite as successful as that of Henry Hudson."

C. F. HALL.

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