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DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE, UNDER THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY. BY MESSRS. DEASE AND SIMPSON.

In 1826 Sir J. Franklin and Capt. Back followed Sir A. Mackenzie's course to the mouth of the river which bears his name, and coasted 370 miles of the Polar Sea to the westward, tracing the northern shores of America till within 160 miles of Point Barrow, which was reached by Mr. Elson, the master of the vessel under the command of Captain Beechy, only four days after Franklin had been obliged to return. The intermediate portion has hitherto remained a blank on our maps; but the unexplored country between Franklin's Return Reef, in lat. $70^{\circ} 26' N.$, long. $148^{\circ} 52' W.$, and Point Barrow, in lat. $71^{\circ} 23' 33'' N.$, long. $156^{\circ} 20' W.$, has been, as the public have recently learned, successfully traced by Messrs. P. M. Dease and Thomas Simpson, acting under the instructions of the Hudson's Bay Company, issued by their resident Governor Mr. George Simpson, to whom the formation and equipment of the expedition had been intrusted. The party started from Fort Chipewyan on the 1st of June 1837, reached the ocean by the most westerly mouth of the Mackenzie on the 9th of July, and Franklin's Return Reef on the 23rd, where their survey commenced. They proceeded by sea to explore the coast, until they arrived, on July 31st, at a point which they subsequently named Boat Extreme, in lat. $71^{\circ} 3' 24'' N.$, and long. $154^{\circ} 26' 30'' W.$ There now appearing little prospect of their being able to reach Point Barrow by water, Mr. T. Simpson undertook to complete the journey on foot, and accordingly started on the 1st of August with five men, Mr. Dease and the other five men remaining in charge of the boats. On August 4th (apparently) Mr. Simpson reached Point Barrow. The party arrived at the western mouth of the Mackenzie, on their return, on the 17th of August, and at Port Norman, on the 4th of September, whence their report is dated on the following day.

The expected further results of the expedition in the ensuing summer, will be understood by the following extract from Mr. G. Simpson's instructions to the explorers:—"The object is to trace the coast from Franklin's Point Turnagain eastward to the entrance of Back's Great Fish River. To that end you will haul your boat across, from the north-eastern extremity of Great Bear Lake to the Coppermine River, before the winter breaks up, and at the opening of the navigation proceed to the sea, and make as accurate a survey of the coast as possible, touching at Point Turnagain, and proceeding to Back's Great Fish River, if the strait or passage exists which that officer represents as separating the main land from Ross's Boothia Felix; but should it turn out on examination that no such strait exists, and that Captain Ross is correct in his statement, that it is a peninsula, not an island, you will in that case leave your boat and cross the isthmus on foot, taking with you materials for building two small canoes, by which you may follow the coast to Point Richardson, Point Maconochie, or some other given spot, that can be ascertained as having been reached by Capt. Back. And you will be regulated in determining whether you will

return to Great Fish River or by the coast by the period of the season at which you may arrive there, the state of the navigation, and other circumstances. In order to guard against privation, in the event of your returning to Great Fish River, it will be advisable to make arrangements at Great Slave Lake, that a supply of provisions, with ammunition and fishing-tackle, babiche for snow-shoe lacing, be deposited at Lake Beechy, or some other point of that route. Should you be unable to complete the voyage to the eastward from Coppermine River in one season, you may take up your quarters with the Esquimaux for the winter, so as to accomplish it the following season."

AFRICAN DISCOVERY.

At the meeting of the Geographical Society on the 28th of May, much interest was excited by the proposition of a plan for exploring the course of the sources of the Western branch of the Nile, by employing for this purpose the son of a native Melech of Dongola, who was present at the meeting, and is said to be well qualified for the undertaking.

The advantages of employing a native, well acquainted with the tribes on the banks of the White River, has led to the commencement of a subscription for this interesting enterprise.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR APRIL 1838.

Chiswick.—April 1. Cold and dry: frosty. 2. Sharp frost: cold and dry. 3—5. Fine. 6. Cloudy. 7. Rain. 8. Cloudy. 9—14. Very fine. 15. Fine: clear and windy. 16. Hail showers in forenoon: snow. 17. Cloudy and cold: showery at night. 18. Cold and dry. 19. Slight snow: overcast and cold. 20. Sleet and hail. 21. Fine. 22. Rain: fine. 23. Very fine: rain at night. 24, 25. Fine. 26, 27. Bleak and cold. 28, 29. Cold and dry. 30. Slight rain. The mean temperature of this month was four degrees below its usual average at this place.

Boston.—April 1. Snow. 2—4. Fine. 5. Fine: rain P.M. 6, 7. Cloudy: rain early A.M.; rain P.M. 8. Stormy: rain early A.M.; rain P.M. 9. Cloudy. 10. Rain. 11. Cloudy: $3\frac{3}{4}$ P.M. thermometer 65° . 12. Fine. 13. Cloudy. 14. Fine: rain P.M. 15. Cloudy: stormy P.M. 16. Stormy: snow P.M. 17. Stormy: snow early A.M. 18. Stormy: snow P.M. 19, 20. Cloudy: snow early A.M. 21. Cloudy: large quantity of hail A.M.: rain P.M. 22. Cloudy. 23. Fine: rain P.M. 24. Fine. 25. Cloudy: rain P.M. 26. Stormy. 27. Rain. 28, 29. Fine. 30. Rain: snow early A.M.: rain P.M.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfriesshire.—April 1. Clear and frosty. 2. Shower of snow: melted. 3. Moist: showery: cold. 4. Showery but mild. 5. Wet: cleared up: fine day. 6. Wet: blowy: cleared up. 7. Wet all day. 8. Dry: hills covered with snow. 9. Dry: cold: frosty morning. 10. Wet: showery all day. 11. Stormy, and wet P.M. 12. Stormy: dry: cold. 13. Clear and cold. 14. Slight showers. 15. Showers: violent wind. 16. Cold and stormy: frosty. 17. Cold and boisterous. 18. Frosty A.M.: very cold. 19. Cold and withering. 20. Still cold and barren. 21. Hoar frost A.M.: dull evening. 22. Dull and cloudy: no frost. 23. Slight rain A.M.: cleared up. 24. Slight rain A.M.: cleared up. 25. Cold and ungenial. 26. Very withering. 27. Hoar frost A.M. 28. Still withering. 29. Looking like rain. 30. Rain: cleared up P.M.