

**FRANKLIN'S FOOTSTEPS: A SKETCH
OF GREENLAND, ALONG THE SHORES
OF WHICH HIS EXPEDITION PASSED,
AND OF THE PARRY ISLES, WHERE
THE LAST TRACES OF IT WERE FOUND**

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BY

CLEMENT ROBERT MARKHAM,

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P R E F A C E.

THE object of the following pages is to lead the reader in Sir John Franklin's footsteps to the verge of the yet unknown tracts of country in the Arctic Regions; to attain this, I have endeavoured to give a slight sketch of the countries along the shores of which he is supposed to have passed, and I have tracked him and his gallant companions until both are lost to our mental view. In the introductory chapter I have shown how and when Greenland was discovered by the Normans, and have recorded the valorous deeds and daring adventures of that hardy race in those northern lands. I have also enumerated the various Expeditions to Baffin's Bay and Greenland, of the navigators of the age of Elizabeth; and shortly alluded to the enterprising exertions of the Danish and Moravian Missionaries. The remainder of the first part of this

little work deals more at large with the voyages of those embarked in the whale-fishery; and comprises a brief account of the modern Expeditions in search of a North-west Passage by way of Baffin's Bay and Lancaster Sound, which have unfortunately concluded in the disappearance of Sir John Franklin's vessels. What follows is a narrative of the Expedition under the command of Captain Austin, in 1850-51, in search of the missing ships and their ill-fated crews; and in this Expedition I was one of the humblest as well as one of the youngest labourers. Thus I have endeavoured to furnish the reader, at one view, and in a condensed form, with a connected history of what has been done by way of discovery in the ice-bound regions of the north from the earliest periods to the present time, as well as with a detailed narrative of the means that have been employed towards rescuing those of our brave countrymen who have been so long lost in those trackless and inhospitable regions.

C. R. M.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

SINCE the following pages were in the printer's hands there have appeared no less than three distinct works upon the same subject: Lieutenant Osborn, Dr. Sutherland, and Captain Mangles, have each separately recorded their experiences in the Arctic Regions, and expressed their opinions as to the fate of Sir John Franklin and his gallant companions. The author of 'Franklin's Footsteps' had, ever since his return with Captain Austin's Expedition, determined on submitting the result of his own observations and researches—slight and imperfect as some may deem them—to the public, feeling that they, in common with himself, felt a deep and sincere interest in the fate of their missing countrymen. If the work possesses no other merit, it may at least be relied on as the production of one who neglected no opportunity of making himself

thoroughly acquainted with the regions he visited, who kept a truthful journal of every event and circumstance at all worthy of record, and who at least had no crotchet or theory to advance or serve. His own opinions are not favourable to the sanguine hopes entertained by many of Sir John Franklin's safety; but the Editor would still draw the attention of the reader to the fact, that if his author is not hopeful, he is not obstinately opposed to the possibility of Franklin's having ascended towards the great Arctic Ocean (if there is one) by way of Wellington Channel or by way of Jones's or Smith's Sound.

Sir Edward Belcher's Expedition will, it is to be hoped, be more successful than that which sailed now three years ago under the command of Captain Austin, and throw some light on the route which was taken by the missing ships after leaving their winter-quarters in Beechey Island. It is at least remarkable that no *further* trace of any kind should have been discovered. As a simple question of evidence, it may be fairly considered as weighing in favour of the presumption that some powerful inducement to take advantage of a sudden opening in the ice had rendered a precipitate movement necessary; and it may also be observed, that at that early period of the expedition Sir John Franklin would not have had any very particular

object in leaving behind him such distinct traces of his future movements, as seems to have been expected and assumed by the various expeditions in search of him. The total destruction of the ships and crews by the Esquimaux is too improbable even to command a passing thought. Masses of ice might, it is true, have destroyed the vessels, but then where are the crews? In such a region it is not likely that they would have been annihilated by the same cause. Starvation and disease may have overtaken them; but then some traces, like those of the Patagonian mission, would in all probability have been found. On the whole, when the facts that are known are viewed simply and calmly in connection with probabilities, and as mere matter of evidence, it is neither rash, wanton, nor ill-judged, to foster hopes which, however doomed to be disappointed, are still fairly within the bounds of reasonable probability.