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## Remains of Sir John Franklin—Letter of Dr. Rae, &c.

We find in the eastern papers the letter of Dr. Rae to Sir George Simpson, dated at York Factory, Aug. 4, 1854, from which we copy so much as is essential to place all the evidence before the public. York Factory, from whence he writes, is situated at the mouth of Hayes river, in Hudson Bay, in about 56 deg. north latitude, and 93 deg. west longitude. After relating some of the events of his journey, up to the time of his discovery of the remains of Sir John Franklin, he proceeds as follows:

On the 31st of March my spring journey commenced, but in consequence of gales of winds, deep and soft snow, and foggy weather, we made but very little progress. We did not enter Pelly Bay until the 17th. At this place we met with Esquimaux, one of whom, on being asked if he ever saw white people, replied in the negative, but said that a large party, at least forty persons, had perished from want of food, some 10 or 12 days' journey to the westward. The substance of the information, obtained at various times and from various sources, was as follows:

In the spring, four winters past—spring of 1850—a party of white men, amounting to about 10, were seen traveling southward over the ice, and dragging a boat with them, by some Esquimaux who were killing seals on the north shore of King William's Land, which is a large island named Kei-ik-tax, by the Esquimaux. None of the party could speak the native language intelligibly, but, by signs, the natives were made to understand that their ships or ship had been crushed by ice, and that the whites were now going to where they expected to find deer to shoot. From the appearance of the men, all of whom, except one officer—chief—looked thin, they were then supposed to be getting short of provisions, and they purchased a small seal from the natives.

At a later date, the same season, but previous to the disruption of the ice, the bodies of about thirty white persons, were discovered on the continent, and five on an island near it, about a long day's journey—say 35 or 40 miles—to the N. W. of a large stream, which can be no other than Back's Great Fish River, named by the Esquimaux, Oot-koo-hi-ca-lik, as its description, and that of the low shore in the neighborhood of Point Ogle and Montreal Island agree exactly with that of Sir George Back. Some of the bodies have been buried, probably those of the first victims of famine, some were in a tent or tents, others under a boat that had been turned over to form a shelter, and several lay scattered about in different directions. Of those found on the island, one was supposed to have been an officer, as he had a telescope strapped over his shoulder, and his double barreled gun lay underneath him.

From the mutilated state of many of the corpses and the contents of the kettles, it is evident that our miserable countrymen had been driven to the last resource, cannibalism, as a means of prolonging life.

There appears to have been an abundant stock of ammunition, as the powder was emptied in a heap on the ground by the natives, out of the kegs or cases containing it, and a quantity of ball and shot was found below high water mark, having been left on the ice close to the beach. There must have been a number of watches, telescopes, compasses, guns, (several double barreled,) &c., all of which appear to have been broken up, as I saw pieces of these different articles with the Esquimaux, and, together with some silver spoons and forks, purchased as many as I could obtain. A list of the most important of these I inclose, with a rough pen and ink sketch of the crests and initials on the forks and spoons. The articles themselves shall be handed over to the secretary of the Hon. H. B. & Co., on my arrival in London.

None of the Esquimaux with whom I conversed had seen the whites, nor had they ever been at the place where the dead were

found; but had their information from those who had been there, and those who had seen the party when alive.

## LIST ENCLOSED IN DR. RAE'S LETTER.

- CRESTS.
- No. 1—Head of (apparently) a walrus or sea-horse, with dragon's wings.
  - No. 2—A griffin, with wings, forked tongue and tail.
  - No. 3—A griffin's head, with wings.
  - No. 4—A dove with an olive branch in its bill, surrounded by a scroll, with the motto, "Sepro meliora."
  - No. 5—A fish's head, with (apparently) coral branches on either side.

List of articles purchased from the Esquimaux, said to have been found to the west, or rather N. W. of Back's river, at the place where the party of men starved to death, in the spring of 1850.

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1 silver table fork,                                      | Crest No. 1 |
| 3 do do do  | " " 2       |
| 1 do do spoon,  | " " 3       |
| 1 do do do motto Sepro Meliora                            | " " 4       |
| 1 do do fork,   | " " 4       |
| 1 do dessert do   | " " 5       |
| 1 do table spoon,   | " " 5       |
| 1 do tea do   | " " 5       |
| 1 do table fork, with initials "H.D.S.G."                 | " " 5       |
| 1 do do do do "A. McD."                                   | " " 5       |
| 1 do do do do "G. A. M."                                  | " " 5       |
| 1 do do do do "J. F."                                     | " " 5       |
| 1 do dessert spoon, do J.F.B. or J.S.B.                   | " " 5       |
| 1 small silver plate engraved "Sir John Franklin, K.C.B." | " " 5       |

A star with motto, "Nec Aspera Terrent," on one side, and on the reverse "G. R. MDCCCXV."

Also, a number of other things of minor importance, as they have no particular marks by which they could be recognized; but which, along with those named, shall be handed over to the secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company. JOHN RAE, C. F. Repulse Bay, July, 1854.

**THE OLDEST CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.**—The Richmond Enquirer says that the oldest church now existing in the United States is one near Smithfield, Isle of Wight county, Va. It was built in the reign of Charles I. between the year 1630 and 1635. The brick, lime and timber were imported from England. The timber is English oak, and was framed in England. The structure is of brick, erected in the most substantial manner. The mortar has become so hardened that it will strike fire in collision with steel. The old Lutheran church in Winchester, Va., lately destroyed by fire, was built in the year 1764. It was occupied during the Revolution by British Hessian prisoners, and was one of the old relics which everybody desired to see preserved. It has of late been unfortunate. It was used in 1851 for a democratic convention, and not long after was struck by lightning. Its demolition was the work of an incendiary.

**UNIFORMITY OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF.**—The census in Scotland has lately been taken, from which it appears that country is the most thoroughly compact body of Presbyterians in the world. The approximation to religious unanimity is greater in Scotland than in any other country. On the morning of the census, Sunday, there were in all 943,951 persons at church. Of these 820,000 were Presbyterians, and 120,000 belonging to various other sects, amounting in all to about thirty.

**NUMBER OF SLAVES IN THE WORLD.**—The African Institution of Paris—an association for the diffusion of civilization and Christian light in Africa—has recently issued a circular, which shows that the number of blacks held in slavery in different countries is seven and a half millions, of which 3,095,000 are in the United States, 3,250,000 in Brazil, 900,000 in the Spanish colonies, 85,000 in the Dutch colonies, 140,000 in the republics of Central America, and 80,000 in European establishments in Africa.

For the Journal.

## To My Mother.

BY STELLIE.

My Mother: on thy yearning breast  
My infancy reclined:  
And thou didst guide through wayward youth  
My young untutored mind.

All through the years of thoughtless youth  
Thou didst my footsteps guide,  
And thou didst teach my hands to work,  
With all a mother's pride.

And when long nights of sickness came,  
Long weary nights of pain,  
Thou didst implore God to restore  
Thy daughter's health again.

And on through girlhood's dreamy days  
My heart still turned to thee,  
To seek a pious mother's prayer,  
A mother's sympathy.

And they were mine—the fervent prayer,  
The ever anxious thought,  
Evinced thy love so deep, so pure—  
I could not be forgot.

And in return, the heart-warm love  
Of her who sings this song,  
Shall be as fondly thine abroad  
As when home—hearts among.

And oft at eve thy Stellie's prayer  
Shall bear to God above  
Thanks from a grateful daughter's heart,  
Thanks for a mother's love.

## The Indian Massacre.

A correspondent of the New York Times, writing from Oregon City, gives the particulars of the dreadful massacre of emigrants by the Indians, brief mention of which was made in our telegraph report of the California news:

On the 20th of August a horrible massacre was committed by the Snake Indians, about 25 miles from Fort Boise. Some rumors of it had reached this valley before our last mail left for "the States." We have now more definite information, through Mr. Humason, a gentleman who was one of a party that went in pursuit of the savages.

The causes which led to the massacre are not stated, but it seems not at all improbable that the comparative smallness of the number of immigrants this season may have emboldened the Indians to gratify their lust for cruelty and plunder.

The details of this affair are briefly these: A party of Indians, estimated at about 60 warriors, that had been encamped near the emigrant trail, in the vicinity of Fort Boise, at the time above stated, attacked a train of immigrants, consisting of nine or ten men, two women, and eight children, and killed or carried into captivity the whole number, save two boys.

Seven men from Boise, who on the day of the massacre were in pursuit of a cow, ran upon the Indians in the very act of plundering the wagons and driving off the cattle.—They charged the Indians, who fled, carrying off the women and children. Not deeming it prudent for so few to go in pursuit, they immediately returned to Fort Boise, taking with them a boy named Newton Ward, who had been wounded, and left by the Indians for dead.

On the morning of the 22d a party of eighteen men left Fort Boise, for the scene of massacre, with the hope of recovering the women and children, who were supposed to be captives in the hands of the Indians. Upon arriving at the spot where the attack was made, they found the bodies of six men, and in the bush near by, the bodies of four more. Not far from that place was found the body of Miss Ward, a young lady about 17 years of age. Her body exhibited signs of the most fiendish violence and cruelty. About a quarter of a mile from this place the body of Mrs. White was found—a lady who was coming to meet her husband who now resides in Umpqua valley. She had been scalped and her head had been beaten to a jelly, and other violence inflicted upon her person. About half a mile from this place, on the opposite side of Boise river, was found the encampment of the savages—then vacated. The encampment num-

bered 16 willow lodges, in the centre of which was found the body of Mrs. Ward, who had evidently suffered the most brutal torture. Her body was covered with scars made by a hot iron; her flesh was cut in many places, and a tomahawk wound was inflicted upon the right temple. In front of her lay the crisped bodies of three of her children, who had apparently been tortured and burned alive in her presence.

Three more children were missing, together with a lad about 15 years of age. The lad, however, came into Fort Boise four days afterwards, wounded, and with an arrow still sticking in his body.

The wagons belonging to the train were burned. The stock, together with the clothing, money, and light articles, were all taken away by the murderers.

Here are the names of the party massacred:

Alex. Ward, wife and 7 children, from Missouri.

Mr. Amon, Missouri.

Samuel Malagen, Missouri.

Mrs. White and child, Missouri.

Mr. Babcock, Missouri, (formerly of Vermont.)

Dr. Adams, Michigan.

Charles Adams, Michigan.

Two Germans and one Frenchman.

As soon as the news of this affair reached Fort Dalles, Major Raines despatched thirty regulars, and as many volunteers, all mounted, and under command of Major Haller.—The acting governor of this territory has also issued a proclamation for raising volunteers here, to aid the forces already sent out. It is altogether desirable that all the measures taken in this matter should be as efficient as possible. There should be an "everlasting treaty," made with those Snake Indians, if it be possible, otherwise such a chastisement should be inflicted upon them as will keep their remembrance fresh. It is supposed that the band who committed this outrage belong to that division of the snakes who live between Fort Hall and Grand Round. They are hostile to the whites, and are at present well armed with American rifles and Hudson's Bay company's guns. Ammunition they are said to be supplied with by the Hudson's Bay company's posts. The attempt to punish them will be hazardous and expensive. It is the imperative duty of the government to make speedy provision for a more convenient and safer communication with this portion of our territory. To say nothing of the construction of roads across the Rocky mountains, it would be a measure of humanity and economy to establish a line of military posts, and keep them strongly garrisoned. There should be at least two such posts between Fort Hall and Fort Dalles. Had such posts existed, it is not probable that this massacre would have been perpetrated.

I learn, also, that the Indians in the south—the Shastas, Modocks, and Rogue Rivers—have committed some outrages upon emigrants and others, although there is a company of rangers, called out by order of Gov. Davis, moving back and forth upon the emigrant road for the express purpose of suppressing Indian hostilities. Our border settlements are so much exposed that some more systematic modes of protection must be resorted to.

Belmont, our minister to the Hague, writes to the Washington Union, denying that he has transacted any banking business while in his official position, as charged by the European correspondents of the Tribune, Times, &c. The matter is in a fog at present, but a few weeks will enable the public to get at the truth.—[O. S. Journal.]

Mary Howitt is said to be engaged in writing a popular history of America, intending to make the reading class of English artisans better acquainted with the history of the United States than they have hitherto been. They stand greatly in need of such enlightenment.