

My dearest Love,

Edw. Munn Esq. & Co.
13th April 1841

There is a vessel to sail for Sydney this
 night and as I think it more than probable that you
 will have to return by that way since Stanley had left
 New Zealand ^{before you could see him.} I write to inform you of Ross's return
 after a successful voyage within the Antarctic Circle
 being anxious that you should receive the intelligence
 as early as possible - He proceeded from Sena to the
 Auckland & Campbell Islands where he procured the
 Magnetic observations which he wished - and then set forth
 to the Southward - The ships entered the Antarctic Circle
 on the 1st of January - the sea was then much encumbered
 with ice & stormy weather caused other obstructions
 to his progress - He however ^{did} discovered land within
 70 degrees South which he traced to the 78th and there
 on the meridian of about 176th East his farther progress
 in that direction was stopped by a barrier of Ice steep
 as a wall and about 150 feet in height - This he then skirted
 in the hope of finding some opening for his ships but none
 was to be seen and at last he was obliged by the formation
 of the new Ice which threatened to enclose the ships to
~~return~~ return to the Southward - He was defeated in two
 attempts to effect a landing on the main shore but he
 succeeded on two small Islands one of them far to the
 South which I believe he has named Franklin from
 the name ^{having} attached to two specimens of Rock brought from
 at which are on the table in the Drawing Room - Ross
 however with his dependance has returned to the
 about the 1st of Feb. The sea was so free from Ice when he
 was

was sailing south beyond the 71st parallel that Ross was
convinced of passing over the Pole of the Earth until
the unbroken Barrier appeared. Near the extremity
of their southern limit they discovered two volcanic
Mountains ^{of great height} one of them emitting flame & smoke which
Ross has very appropriately called Erebus and the other
Tethyon. They saw land over the ice as far as the
79th South.

By the observations which Ross obtained ^{to the} South of the
Pole and in the ^{vicinity} of the Magnetic Pole he has
been enabled to fix the position of it with as much
accuracy as if he had been so fortunate as to
reach the spot - he could not get within 160 miles
of it. In sailing to the Pole of his own discoveries in
returning the ships ran for 80 miles over Mountains and
other land which the American Exploring Expedition
had laid down on their charts and thus ^{has} stamped
the proper value on their pretended discoveries in
this quarter. Ross considers the French Charts to have been
accurate in their positions - Ross has ascertained
the lines of greatest Magnetic intensity and of no
variation both important points. In fact he has
had complete success in his first undertaking and
I am happy to say without a single casualty or accident
having occurred. The Officers Crew & Ships are all in
perfect condition. When the ships were first reported
to the night felt most anxious and set off as soon as
possible to meet Ross. My mind however was relieved
before Tobias board by the news of the arrival of the
ships & giving three hearty cheers. Ross was delighted

to find that the Officers at the Observatory had been as energetic
 & persevering at their duties as his own companions -
 of which he received proof on landing by having before
 him the Registers of their very numerous Observations
 brought up to the preceding hour and ready to be at once
 forwarded to England. The only disappointment he
 himself was your absence at the time of his return
 and in ~~his~~ his expression of regret he was heartily joined
 by all his Officers as well as our own Circle -
 However he looks forward to your early return -
 and I hope the Ships will remain till you do - He has
 directed his own Observations to be put up and
 he means to take repeat the Pendulum & other
 Observations -

Montagu has resumed his office and Foster his
 and every thing is going on very quietly - The dinner
 to Montagu was very well attended - and with I am
 persuaded do good - I accepted the invitation and
 when I can explain to you all the reasons and am
 sure that you will agree with me - As was the
 Copy that I was right in doing so - Montagu brought
 several Despatches all of which were of a satisfactory
 nature - Mr Justice Montagu has got a severe rebuke
 from Lord John Russell who expresses his opinion
 that he ought to apologize to me - The Judge has called
 to something to that effect and promised he would
 write to me but he has not done so - I made a note
 of our conversation and I am satisfied - Montagu
 assures me that my measures are approved at the
 Colonial Office and that I have several personal friends
 there - I am sure from a note I received from Sir John
 that he is one of the latter that he takes an interest
 in the measures of my Gov^t - He had just received the
 College

papers & my letter & says that he will do what he can
when the papers come under consideration of
Lord John - he writes from Bath - Montagu brought
many letters for you which I retain being uncertain
whether you will return by Sydney - The school system
& alterations have been approved - Masters & Misses papers
are to be sent out - The increase of salaries which I proposed
for the Auditor - the P. & P. W. & M. have been sanctioned
In fact nothing came in the last Despatches contrary
to my wishes - Montagu this morning commenced
to me which he was prohibited from doing in writing
when in England that he had read the second series
of Capt Macarone's papers which he had transmitted
to Lord Stanley in which not only abuses in the troops
towards the Gov. & conduct of Sir J. Norton - but also comments
very harshly on me - These were placed before Lord John
Pepel who on his own hand writing made a minute
in them which Montagu has read - that he was not saying
anything Macarone would say - he could not think
of sending such documents to Sir John Franklin or give him
the pain to read them - he desired that they should not be
suffered to pass through the office but kept by Sir J. Aldrich
in case they were wanted - They are now under his key
but I shall see them in any situation -

James's family sailed this day for England - There
was an effort made by persons who wanted his professional
services to retain him - but he declined - I sincerely trust
now that the same agitators are gone home - that
there will be a little quiet in the colony - There is quiet
now - I have not been able to get into the country as
yet - but I hope to persuade Mr & Mrs Crozier to take a trip
with me by Sydney - Sophy has been unwell - but has
better - Mary Anne has another baby & it is almost such a
pleasure as quite well & I am happy to find she is a good deal
with Mrs. Pennington who is a lady like person. Mr Pennington
gets on admirably - I really feel happy now - Come back as soon as
you can & witness the happiness of our family circle - Our young folks offer
the usual