FEB 1826

LETTER FROM
SIR JOHN FRANKLIN
ARCTIC EXPLORER

written at Great Bear Lake, near Arctic Circle and sent to

ROBT. McVICAR, CHIEF TRADER,
HUDSON'S BAY CO.,
GREAT SLAVE LAKE

Rare signature and seal of Sir John Franklin →

WINTER MAIL TRANSPORTATION IN FAR NORTH - *still depends on men & dogs*

To Robt McVicar Esqr
Chief Trader
HBCo
Great Slave Lake

Jno Franklin

1.2

1845
Great Slave Lake.
Letter of
John Franklin.

Great Bear Lake 6. February 1826

My dear friend,

I am much obliged by your favour of the conveyance of your despatches so expeditiously from Fort Chipewyan - and the promptitude you evinced in sending them from Stone Lake. They got here as soon as we had expected and as far as we can discover, without any being missing - but I regret to find that yourself and others have been less fortunate as to their letters -

Through the excellent arrangements of Mr Dease we have been living very well - just at present the supply of fish is not so abundant as formerly though nearly equal to our demand - and we look with confidence to an increase as the milder weather advances - Our Hunters too, will soon be able to follow the deer more successfully than during the short days of winter - and we may expect occasional supplies of meat. With respect to other Hunters, Mr Dease imagines that the Chipewyan Half Breeds - whom we at present have, will be disposed to return in the spring to that establishment; and as they are not particularly active, he will have no objection to their so doing - But he has requested me to mention to you his wish, that their place should be supplied - by the Red Knives Canayzeed Ettezye, and the Jealous Man who was one of the best Hunters on our former journey - To point out the man, I may remark that he is the person whom we met with the Le Grand Jeune Homme - and to whom Dr Richardson gave a note for some goods when we left your last Sumpter - he here of a debt, said to be due to him on our last expedition

Mr. Dease also wishes to have the Half Breeds Joseph St Germain and Hathyousai sent down if they be not in your employment. I shall be much obliged if you will cause the whole of these men to be engaged for the Expedition as soon as possible, and to be sent to this place in the Spring as soon as they can come. The less they are burdened with families the better. Our Dog Fit hunters are very indifferent and with one exception very inactive. So that unless we get better Hunters we may feel great inconvenience next winter. If the Red Knives should have any apprehensions as to coming to this quarter, you may tell them it is Mr. Dease's opinion that there is no occasion for alarm.

I return the receipts for stores supplied by your Post signed as you desire.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure my good friend, than to partake of your hospitality and kindness and if I return by this route, it is more than probable that I shall pay you a visit before the ice departs next season. as I shall naturally be desirous of getting the intelligence of whatever may have been done conveyed as quickly as possible to England. I should in that case have this place in February. If I could get all my documents previously prepared.

I feel to be thankful for your letter received and in conveying

his individual feelings respecting you - he has only pourtrayed the sentiments which are entertained by every Officer of ours - as he never can be insensible to your kindness -

Do not fail to remember me very kindly to Mrs McLean and express my best wishes for her happiness - with that offer young stranger be at a loss or difficulty - and I need hardly repeat - that it will ever afford me the most sincere gratification if I can be in any way instrumental in promoting your interests - My very best wishes will ever attend you and your family

Believe me
Ever most faithfully yours
John Franklin

To. Robert McLean Esqr
Chief Trader
H B Co
Great Slave Lake.

Will you have the goodness to supply us with 4 Bags of Salt - and to send them to Fort Norman next Autumn with the Pemmican that I have ordered from Fort Chipewyan -