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978-1-108-07099-7 - The Private Journal of Captain G.F. Lyon, of H.M.S. Hecla:

During the Recent Voyage of Discovery Under Captain Parry

George Francis Lyon

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### **The Private Journal of Captain G.F. Lyon, of H.M.S. Hecla**

By 1820, the explorer William Parry had managed to traverse half of the North-West Passage. For his second attempt in 1821–3, he was accompanied by George Francis Lyon (1795–1832), who captained H.M.S. *Hecla*. Parry and Lyon ultimately failed to get beyond Fury and Hecla Strait – named for the expedition's ships – because of heavy ice. This, together with the onset of scurvy, brought about their return to England. First published in 1824, Lyon's journal provides details of the region's natural history and its ice conditions as well as some of the most perceptive early commentary on the Inuit of Baffin Island and Melville Peninsula. Lyon struck up a rapport with these people, even allowing them to tattoo him. Living among the Inuit, Lyon observed their customs, their clothing, their diet, and their hunting activities. Several engravings of the author's sketches enhance the value of the work.

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Drawn by Capt<sup>o</sup> Lyon, R. N.

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**THE LAST APPEARANCE OF THE SUN FOR 42 DAYS,**

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THE  
**PRIVATE JOURNAL**

OF

**CAPTAIN G. F. LYON,**

OF H. M. S. HECLA,

DURING

THE RECENT VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY UNDER  
CAPTAIN PARRY.

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*WITH A MAP AND PLATES.*

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TO  
CAPTAIN W. E. PARRY,  
UNDER WHOSE COMMAND OF  
THE EXPEDITION  
FOR THE  
DISCOVERY OF A NORTH-WEST PASSAGE,  
I HAVE HAD THE HEARTFELT SATISFACTION OF SERVING,  
AND  
WHOSE FRIENDSHIP I AM PROUD TO POSSESS,  
THESE RECOLLECTIONS  
OF THE DAYS WE HAVE HAPPILY PASSED TOGETHER,  
ARE INSCRIBED  
BY HIS SINCERE AND GRATEFUL FRIEND,  
GEO. F. LYON.

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## PREFACE.

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PERHAPS there are not many readers who take the trouble of casting an eye over a Preface, knowing that it is usually neither more nor less than a sort of appeal from the Author to the Public. Notwithstanding this, I strongly feel the necessity of placing one at the head of my little journal, with the view, I confess, of bespeaking something in its favour from those who may honour it with a perusal; assuring them that it was written solely for the amusement of my own fire-side, and without the most distant idea that it would ever see the light in any other shape than that of its original manuscript.

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PREFACE.

Being sent with the other journals to the Admiralty, in obedience to Captain Parry's instructions, my friend Mr. Barrow, in returning it to me, advised me strongly to publish it, on account of the number of little anecdotes it contained relative to the habits and disposition of a people entirely separated from the rest of the world, and with whom we had for so great a length of time kept up an intimate and constant intercourse.

He observed also, as an additional inducement, that Captain Parry, in his authentic and official account of the expedition, had not deemed it fit or necessary to enter into many of those minute and peculiar traits which are requisite for displaying the character of a strange people. Captain Parry's opinion on this subject agreeing with Mr. Barrow's, I could no longer hesitate; and therefore, after a few abbreviations, and the omission of some details of

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natural history, and of scientific observations, I sent the original manuscript to the printer. This is the brief history of my private gossiping journal, thus making its appearance before the Public, on whose kindness and indulgence I now beg to throw myself.

G. F. L.

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