

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51

Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Polar Exploration

This series includes accounts, by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, of early expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic. Huge resources were invested in such endeavours, particularly the search for the North-West Passage, which, if successful, promised enormous strategic and commercial rewards. Cartographers and scientists travelled with many of the expeditions, and their work made important contributions to earth sciences, climatology, botany and zoology. They also brought back anthropological information about the indigenous peoples of the Arctic region and the southern fringes of the American continent. The series further includes dramatic and poignant accounts of the harsh realities of working in extreme conditions and utter isolation in bygone centuries.

Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the goal of the North-West Passage had claimed the lives of many explorers, yet the disappearance of the expedition led by Sir John Franklin occasioned the greatest response. Naval officer Sherard Osborn (1822–75) took part in the search mission of 1850–1 under Horatio Thomas Austin. Osborn was appointed to command the *Pioneer*, one of two steam tenders on the voyage. This was the first time such vessels had been deployed in the punishing conditions of the Arctic. Such was their success in cutting through ice and navigating the treacherous waters that similar models were later adopted by the whaling fleet. The present work, first published in 1852, gives a compelling account of the hardships of the expedition, which was successful in its surveying work and confirmed that Franklin had not been lost in Baffin Bay.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51
Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51

Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal

*Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions,
in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition,
in the Years 1850–51*

SHERARD OSBORN



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in
the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51
Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108071772

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1852

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-07177-2 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or
with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

The original edition of this book contains a number of colour plates,
which have been reproduced in black and white. Colour versions of these
images can be found online at www.cambridge.org/9781108071772

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in
the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51
Sherard Osborn
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in
the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850-51
Sherard Osborn
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



M. R. N. HANBURY, OFFICER OF THE

C A P E H O T H A M

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in
the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51

Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

STRAY LEAVES

FROM

AN ARCTIC JOURNAL ;

OR,

EIGHTEEN MONTHS IN THE POLAR REGIONS,

IN SEARCH OF

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITION,

IN THE YEARS 1850–51.

BY LIEUT. SHERARD OSBORN,

COMMANDING H.M.S. VESSEL, "PIONEER."

Dedicated to Lady Franklin.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,
1852.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in
the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51
Sherard Osborn
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LONDON :
SPOTTISWOODES and SHAW,
New-Street-Square.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850-51
Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Dedication.

~~~~~

ACCEPT, my dear Lady Franklin, these few pages, as the warm and honest tribute of deserved admiration for yourself and estimable niece, Miss Sophia Cracroft — admiration, which I delight in, in common with thousands, that such as you are Englishwomen; and pride, that a sailor's wife should so nobly have fulfilled her duty; for, if, on the one hand, the name of Sir John Franklin, that chief "*sans peur et sans reproche*," is dearly associated with our recollections of the honours won in the ice-bound regions of the Pole, your names are not the less so, with the noble efforts made to rescue, or solve the fate of our missing countrymen.

That those sacrifices, those untiring exertions, that zeal which has never wavered, that hope so steadfast, since it is that of an

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51

Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

iv

DEDICATION.

Englishwoman for her husband, that patience under misconstruction, that forgiveness for the sneer of jealousy, and that pity for the malicious, which you have so pre-eminently displayed, may yet, by God's help, one day reap its reward in the accomplishment of your wishes, is the fervent prayer of

SHERARD OSBORN.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51

Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE.

---

I FEAR with the many of my cloth, my crime in writing a book will be an unpardonable one; the more so, that I cannot conscientiously declare, that it has been at the urgent desire of my friends, &c., that I have thus made my débüt.

My motive is twofold, to tell of the doings of a screw steam vessel, the first ever tried in the Polar regions, and by a light readable description of incidents in the late search for Sir John Franklin, to interest the general reader and the community at large upon that subject. Without fear, favour, or affection, I have told facts as they have occurred; and I trust have, in doing so, injured no man. A journal must necessarily be, for the most, a dry narration of facts; I have, therefore, thrown in here and there general observations and remarks founded upon such facts, rather than a dry repetition of them.

To the officers and men serving under my com-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850-51

Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

mand, I can offer no higher compliment than, in having thus placed their severe and zealous labours before the public; and no professional reader who reads these “Stray Leaves,” can fail, I am certain, to perceive how heavily must have fallen the labours here recounted upon the men and officers of the steam tenders, and how deep an obligation I their commander must be under to them for their untiring exertions, by which this, the first and severe trial of steam in the Arctic regions, was brought to a successful issue.

The “Resolutes,” no doubt, will object to the round terms in which I have growled at the bluff-bowed vessel it was my fate and now my pride to have towed so many miles in the Frozen Zone; but on second thoughts, I doubt not they will acquit me, for they will remember the joke was once on their side; and if I do not love their *ship*, at any rate I liked *them*.

To Lieutenant W. May and Mr. M'Dougall, I am much indebted for their faithful sketches. I fear my letter press is unworthy of the companionship.

To those who may accuse me of egotism in confining my remarks so much to the achievements of my own vessel, I have merely to say, that in doing so, I was best able to be truthful; but that I am fully aware that to the other screw steamer, the

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51

Sherard Osborn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

PREFACE.

vii

“Intrepid,” and my gallant friend and colleague Commander J. B. Cator, there fell an equal amount of labour; and that to all, ships as well as screws, there was an equal proportion of hardship, danger, and privation. I should indeed be forgetful as well as ungrateful, did I here fail to acknowledge the more than kindness and assistance I have ever experienced from my friend Mr. Barrow, a name past and present inseparably connected with our Arctic discoveries; so likewise I have to offer my thanks, heartfelt as they are sincere, to those who, like Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, and Captain Hamilton of the Admiralty, bade me speed, when sincerity and zeal was all I had to boast, and who dared to overlook the crime of youth, and granted to “seven-and-twenty” the deference which “five-and-fifty” alone can claim.

Richmond, Feb. 15. 1852.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in  
the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51  
Sherard Osborn  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-07177-2 - Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal: Or, Eighteen Months in  
the Polar Regions, in Search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, in the Years 1850–51  
Sherard Osborn  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

LIST OF PLATES.



|                          |           |                     |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| CAPE HOTHAM              | . . . . . | <i>Frontispiece</i> |
| BREAKING THROUGH THE ICE | . . .     | to face page 82     |
| WINTER QUARTERS          | . . . . . | „ 157               |
| SLEDGE TRAVELLING        | . . . . . | „ 240               |

