

Henry Grinnell Papers
Box 1, Folder 4

Letter 1

The Franklin Expedition
Editors of Journal of Commerce
Gentlemen

The extraordinary statement made by C.F. Hall from Hudson's Bay, which has been published in the Papers, will be widely circulated all over the civilized world. Therefore, with your permission, I will make a few remarks on the subject.

It is well known that I have devoted the last 15 years of my life to the closest study of The Franklin mystery, and have been several hundred miles beyond Hall, and within 300 miles of the locality of the missing navigators. I have also thrice attempted new Expeditions of relief at ruinous cost to myself. Consequently I am entitled to some credit when I assert what I am about to do.

I had partly[?] expected Mr. Hall would have returned this Fall, and I kept silent during his absence, but, as he now sends a statement which cannot fail to electrify the minds of all friends of The Franklin Expedition, I feel bound to openly express my doubts of the whole affair. The report is too sensational and too vague, and though I find the Evening Post has paraded it with high eulogistic matter, all the while knowing that Hall's doing are simply the working upon my brains and following up my plans long ago marked down, and in his possession, I still must urge upon the public great caution in the matter. Indeed his whole statement is but an almost literal reading of my published ideas in 1860. A pamphlet issued by me in London, and a Paper I read before the Oxford Meeting contains essentially what he now puts forth – especially as to Crozier and the locality of Neitchilee. If, therefore, his statement is true, it gives to me a gift of something like extraordinary Second Sight.

Before Hall's departure last year, a letter of mine appeared in The Press (about June 7th) far stronger than anything I say now. Moreover I appealed to his Committee to investigate before anybody of scientific men the whole of what he said he had done. No

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F. Hall, and the Arctic Regions
Editors of Journal of Commerce

Having seen nothing proposed with reference to the relief of Mr Hall – now alone with the Esquimaux, in a part of the Arctic Regions not often visited by civilized men – I venture to call attention to the subject.

Much as I have reason to feel bitter against him, and strongly determined as ever to closely test everything he does, I am yet very anxious concerning him. It is not too late for a small craft to run up there and back this season. You may remember the success of a little whaling Schooner in 1864, during this very thing and making a famous paying voyage.

Mr Hall – whatever I may personall feel - is an American at work for the glory of his native flag and the honor of his country. I love my own flag and native land so well that I could not help appreciating one (however much I consider him wrong in other things,) who does the same. Besides, the esteem I have for the Country and Institutions wherein and under which I dwell, is enough to prompt me to publicly hope something will be done towards sending him relief. Unfortunately I am still bound by my engagements here, but, were it otherwise, or these could be set aside, I would gladly take charge of a small suitable Cutter or Schooner of from 30 to 50 tons, and run up there, confident that, with the open Season I expect will be found in the Arctic Regions this year, a return could be made in the Fall. Indeed it would not be amiss for a pleasure cruise with a few persons not afraid of the comparative danger.

I am Respectfully

W. Parker Snow

Mount Cottage, Near Nyack N.Y.

June 26th

END OF LETTER

Letter 2

Washington, D.C.

Jan:27th 1871

Dear Mr. Grinnell

I sent you telegram on the 24th stating that the Government had decided to have the Polar Expedition fitted out here, + that everything was highly favorable.

My special interview with the Secretary of the Navy in company of Hon. A.A.

Sargent, M.C. of California, came off on Sunday Morning (24th just) our highest hopes + prayers could not if fully answered could not have been more satisfactory than were the results of that interview.

The Secretary will do anything + everything that may be desired of us to make this North Polar
END OF PAGE

p2

Polar Expedition what it should be.

We must not forget the deep, warm, active intent that the Hon. Mr. Sargent is taking in this matter. He, as I have told you, is a particular friend of Mr. Robeson and therefore his interview with him is full + commanding. Mr. Sargent feels a National pride in the accomplishment of the proposed objects of this North Polar Expedition, + therefor he bids us command his services at anytime + to any extent in expediting its preparations.

Mr. Delano was telegraphed by the Secy. of the Navy on the day of the interview to come on here + set in motion those of the Washington Navy Yard designed to prepare the Arctic Vessel.

He has been here + leaves to-day. I have been with Mr. D. at the Yard nearly all the time he was here + surely I must say it is a blessed thing that you + Mr. Delano live to give the world the benefit of your long experience + the unquenchable fire of your souls in fitting out exploration for the Arctic Seas. Mr Delano has promised me that he will call on you + tell you what has been done + what is being done. I

END OF PAGE

(p 3)

I will not start to tell you the many points I desire to report to you, but will procede in brevity to note 1st Hon Mr. Brevoort sent over to you the \$100. I promised you; Have written him on the subject. As I told you before I left, so now I believe he will favor me as I indicated in good faith to you. The matter of Salary was brought to the notice of the Secy. of the Navy by noble hearted Sargent + the Secy. remarked in unison to the Expression of Mr S. that certainly I ought to have it. Will you please briefly give me your views by letter relative to this salary – whether or not I should have one – how much, + when to commence I have spoken to Senators Morton, Patterson + others of high position + they all quickly responded that It is right + just I should have a salary. Yours Ever CF Hall

Henry Grinnell

45 William St N.Y. (see 4th p)

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(p 4)

I have received letter + Telegram of R.P. Kilmer who has called when upon you. If he calls again please state to him for me that the officers for the Polar Expedition have all been selected + approved, + that there is no chance for him.

(Confidential)

There was a prospect some months since that Mr. K might become a member of the Expedition but his own indiscreet conduct has lost to him that chance. There is now no ground whatever for him to hope to go with the Expedition

Yours CF Hall

My ‘Joe’ sends love – Any more news from Walton? I am satisfied Congress would delight to do the just act of passing a statute to re-instate your son Walton in the Navy in which he left a high + well earned record.

END OF LETTER

Letter 3

Washington D.C.

Feb 1/71

Mr. Grinnell

NY

I have time only to say one word as the car here in a few minutes – at IX + now 10 minutes of that time.

Did you get my letter of Jan 27th? Has Mr. Brevoort sent or given you \$100. yet? If not, I will raise it here + send the same immediately as gotten your letter on Telegram.

Give enclosed letters to Mr. Kilmer Yours CFHall

END OF LETTER

Letter 4

Washington, D.C.

Feb 6th 1871

Dear Captain –

This evening about 4h-30m Friend Lapton[?] called here at my room, no 28 North A St. + left the Telegram you sent to-day to me which I perceive was received in Washington at noon.

I have just returned from down town where I went to send you telegram that I've start to-night + will be there (God Willing) to-morrow noon. I furthermore wish get best Physicians of New London for his daughter Punny[?]? The man in attendance very kindly said he would send word to the office in Groton to have the telegram sent right over to you. If there be great danger of bring Pun-ny, spare no efforts to secure, not only

END OF PAGE

one of the best Physicians, but two or three + let them consult to-gether. Hesitate not at the cost, for I far prefer to have to pay the bill of the best of medical aid of New London in trying to save Joe + Hannah's little idol girl, than to have the reflection in care of death that I spared efforts that might have been made.

Again I say, use every effort to have a council of the best of Physicians in Pun-ny's care which I am sure is critical, though you do not say so in your telegram. If it be Heaven's will that mortal hands cannot save the "jewel" of our hearts, then we must fail to submit to the stroke, severe as it may be, believing that God's ways, + not ours, are Right + Just. If Pun-ny should die, let me know it by telegram, for surely I should come to mourn with those who would most pitiously mourn + work with those who would work indeed. But I pray Heaven, spare me this anticipated affliction.

END OF PAGE

By + by I shall like to send for you Capt. Budington to come on to spend a few days here overlooking this work going on relative to the North Polar Vessel. As proposed, all you expenses in coming – stopping here + in returning would be paid as we talked it over. Perhaps I may send for you in a few days. I hope to hear of Pun-ny's recovery soon – may it be very soon. Her loss would be a terrible blow to "Joe" + "Hannah". So it would be to us all.

You must recollect that you can telegraph to me without expense as I have a Frank which first year[?] will start when you send dispatch. Whatever Joe + Hannah may require let them have the same freely/ Shortly I shall be enabled to repay you. Yours Truly

CF Hall

END OF LETTER

Letter 5

Private

Washington, D.C.

Feb:7:1871

VIIIh PM

Henry Grinnell

N.Y.

Dear Sir

When I wrote you Feb.1st I had sorry reason to believe that very shortly one hundred Dollars could be raised by me to send either to you or Mr. Brevoort – to you if Mr. B. had not sent that amount over to you – on to him if he had done so.

By arrangements made last Saturday with the Secy. of the Navy, he, under the approval of the President, is going to pay over to the undersigned at stated terms for service

END OF PAGE

sums at the note of two thousand dollars (\$2000.) per annum. You know better than myself how long + difficult it is to get warrants etc or to get any bills cashed by Government. I called Monday at the Naval Department expecting a warrant – called to-day but again disappointed. To-morrow I hope to succede, for my anxiety is great on your hundred dollar account. I thought I had taken every precaution to prepare for the payment of that hundred Dollars when I took them from your hand. The very moment I get what has been promised me by the Secy of the Navy, I will forward what I borrowed of you, in good faith believing that Mr. Brevoort send the amt. over to you. I am almost wild with bitter anguish that I have failed to keep my promise to you about that \$100.

END OF PAGE

Last evening I received the sorrowful tidings by telegram from Capt. Buddington of Groton, Conn. that little “Sylvia” was quite sick + requesting that “Joe” should hasten home. So last night at IX I started “Joe” off by Rail Road to N.Y. where he probably arrived at 6h or 7h this morning. By introduction to my friend, Mr. Crane[?] at Laggetts[?] Hotel he would conduct “Joe” at once to New Haven R.R. Depot + from there he would start about VIIIh AM + arrive in New London a little past noon (of today).

It is quite certain that little "Sylvia's" life is in imminent danger from Whooping Cough which she has had for some time. I trust this jewel of all our hearts will be spared to us. Her loss would be not only a terrible blow to Joe + Hannah but to all who ever saw this joyous, blithe, happy little creature. But Heaven rules in all these matters – not man. Mr. Delano is on his way home + will arrive to-morrow morning. When here last he was to return in just two weeks + the time is now up.

Have made agreement with Dr. Walker – on matters accepted his proposal to accompany the Arctic Expn. CF Hall

END OF LETTER

Letter 6

Washington, D.C.

Mar:15:1871

Henry Grinnell

45 William St

N.Y.

Dear Sir

Your letter of yesterday I received this morning + was very glad in reading its contents. I am deeply anxious to have Walton arrive. He is wanted here now and in the overwhelming amount of responsibility of work on my soul + hands.

Dr. Walker arrived here in Washington Night of Mar 9th, though I did not see him til noon of the 10th

You write me of Morton – that he had called on you + assured you that he would adhere to the engagement made with me, but if I wished to let him off, he would rather like it. The only objection (as you state) he makes about going with me is his age; that is he thinks himself too old.

Noble fellow is this faithful main of noble Dr. Kane. No. I cannot let off this man

END OF PAGE

Man of experience _ fidelity who was in the 1st + 2nd Grinnell Arctic Expeditions. The ways I offered him was \$75 a month if he would go, + he agreed to be of my North Polar Company. I wish you would employ a messenger at once to find William Morton + have him taken to your presence – then inform Morton that I wish him to come to Washington just as soon as he can by Rail Road + that he can have a situation on the steamer Tallapoosa[?] with Capt. Mc Ritchie who is a great friend + acquaintance of your son Walton. Capt. Mc Ritchie was examined in the Navy at the same time as Walton. The Tallapoosa[?] is a steamer running occasionally between Washington + N.Y. + Boston, in the Naval Service exclusively. Every now + then High official parties take excursion in this vessel. Soon the President + the "High Commissioners" here will

take an excursion down to Mount Vernon. Capt Mc Ritchie is a noble, social kind man + takes great interest in Arctic Matters. He will give Morton an easy position + retain him till the Polar Expedition gets ready for him. (see sheet No 2)

END OF PAGE

Sheet No 2

Capt. Ritchie is liked by every body – is especially beloved by every soul of his ship's company. He will keep good care of Morton throwing around his good influences – such as will keep him from the body + soul destroying sorry spirituous liquors. Whatever arrangements Morton wishes made about money matters will be made on his arrival here. Tell him to get all ready quick as possible – to bring as good clothing as he has as a change for he will be in Company now _ then with the Great of our Land. On his arrival in Washington he will find me at 903 E. St. but I will be at the Depot if you will write me in advance of his leaving. I can get Morton almost any situation he might wish Let Morton get ready to come this vessel if possible If he can leave tomorrow (Thursday) night so as to be here Friday morning Let him do so. If he cannot do so Let him be here Saturday Morning. If he needs money to get here, you will please advance him just enough + I will remit you right away on his arrival. Caution him not to drink. Tell him I will make arrangements to send his family money they may need.

Morton's residence in Jersey City is as follows

365 South 5th St

Jersey City

N.J.

Again I may say that you can tell Morton that I have depended, and shall depend on him as we agreed + that I thank him for his ex??? to you Mr. Grinnell that he would do as he agreed with me.

Let me know by mail or Telegram what train Morton will take

Yours Ever

CF Hall

END OF LETTER

Letter 7

P.O. Box 577

Residence 903 E St

Washington, D.C.

t: Apr: 16th: 1871

Henry Grinnell

45 William St

N.Y.

Dear Sir

Your letter of 11th last I read. 12th - + yours of yesterday (15th) came into my hands this morning. Your kindly offer in the former letter, of new suit of clothes which you have just had made for yourself – proving too large that you now present to me, moves me to thank you indeed + truth. I suppose I will have to visit New York once more before taking my departure from for the discovery of the North Pole + the circumpolar Continent, then I can, as many times before, become bedecked with the vesture of him who has ever been to me a friend, aye more, a father. Your latter letter (of Yesterday, 15th) gives me the pleasing intelligence that Dr. Bessels[?] has arrived there + been kindly cared for by your son.

END OF PAGE

I am satisfied that you have seen Dr. Bessels + like him well, as you state that he is to dine with you to. Day. The same mail that brought your last letter brought me a note from Dr B. It appears that he leaves N.Y. to-morrow (Monday) night. + that he will be here about 6h next morning. Please give Dr. Bessels a card from you which card will have a request on it that the Conductor on the train entering Washington shall have Dr. Bessels by him, so that the moment the train gets here on my waking[?] the conductor, he will point Dr. Bessels out to me. Failing to find Dr. B in this way, I will seek out his addressed baggage at the Baggage Car + stick by it till I recognize the owner.

One week since Friday Mar 7th, one of the energetic carpenters at work on the “Polaris” fell from the high staging + broke both his legs. A few moments before he made the remark, ‘Come boys, we[?] must dash away on our work + get this vessel done quickly, for Capt. Hall is burning to get off + discover the North Pole.

If Dr. Bessels needs any funds to get here, advance him + I will return some next day.

Yours CF Hall

Remember what I told you when I was there that a certain (or uncertain) one may try to borrow money of you. It will not need another word from me. CFH

END OF LETTER

Letter 8

P.O. Box 577

Washington D.C.

Apr:26:1871

VIIIh Evening

Confidential

Henry Grinnell

45 William St.

N.Y.

Dear Sir, It is quite certain that the same mail that brings you this will bring you a letter from Dr. W[?]. His letter will, without doubt, read quite smoothly, but serves[?] the same bad spirit will have prompted him in the sentiments he will utter that has regulated his movements since his arrival here on the 10th day of Mar. last. A terrible time have I had with this man. I found him out before a single word came from you or from Col. Stanton. A few days since the Secy of the Navy gave me orders to cast him off + so yesterday Prof. Henry Do not write to Dr. W. till Walton comes + then if you do conclude to write finally before you send it ponder it well for Dr. W will make great use of it in his favor if he could so twist it
END OF PAGE

broke the ice – so to write it - + a short time after in the presence of a witness I told Dr. W that he could never go on the proposed Expedition – in fact he was ordered to consider himself out of the Expedition henceforth + forever. I will not sloth to tell you never his conduct since his arrival in Washington. The great wonder of almost every body has been how it was that I got such an offensively oppressing, badly conducting man into the Polar Expedition Co. Several men who had met W. have suggested that he would be at the bottom of much trouble – trouble of the Character most to be dreaded on such an expedition if I allowed him to go. I have learned that 2 letters (-one yours - + one Stanton's I had loaned to a friend) had been shown to the friend of Dr. W. for the object to make him (W.) quietly withdraw from the Expedition. The object has been accomplished, but to smooth over the matter + make things favorable to him, he tells a few unsuspecting parties that he has written to you for an explanation. The Col. – Col. ??? nw in this city, why he had command over Dr. W. some portion of the last year on the Pacific Coast has communicated to me + other Confidential parties the conduct + standing of said Dr W. – I no longer wonder that your son
END OF PAGE

refuses to go on the North Polar Expn if Dr. W. goes.
If you think well of the suggestion I now make, be therefore guided by it. I would suggest that you make no answer to the letter Dr W. in his rank foolishness presumes to write you this day. At least, if you should conclude to answer him, I would then again suggest that you delay your answer till the arrival of your son Walton + see what more he has to report. What I myself never know of the man in question, the whole world could not intice me to have such a man as he on the North Polar Expn abouot to take its departure.
The vessel was ??? yesterday.
Yours ever CF Hall
END OF LETTER