

THE WIND IS HOWLING FIERCER NOW AND THE DARK IS FALLING FAST  
AND THE WILDERNESS A NEVER ENDING WHITE  
JUST AS WELL YOU'VE ICED THE RUNNERS FOR IT'S STILL A MILE TO CAMP  
AND THE COMFORT OF THE SNOW HOUSE IN THE BITTER ARCTIC NIGHT  
IT'S A FAR, FAR CRY FROM STROMNESS AND THE SULLEN SOUND OF HOY  
TO A STATION AT THE HEART OF HUDSON'S BAY  
AND THE CAULDRON OF THE FIRTH WILL BE AS NOTHING TO THE STORM  
THAT ERUPTS WHEN YOU REPORT THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE HEARD TODAY

JOHN RAE THE ORCADIAN INFORMS THE LEARNED GENTLEMEN  
HE HAS NEWS OF ONE OF ENGLAND'S FAMOUS SONS  
JOHN RAE WHEN YOU SPEAK AGAIN TAKE HEED OF THESE SAME GENTLEMEN  
LOOK AROUND YOU, SEE THE WHISPERS HAVE BEGUN  
AND THE STORM AND THE ICE ARE CLOSING IN

JOHN LEARNED TO BUILD AN IGLOO AND TO HUNT THE CARIBOU  
AND MAKE SNOWSHOES TO TRAVERSE THE HARSH TERRAIN  
HE DROVE THE SLEDGE OF INUIT, HE RODE THE CREE CANOE  
AND THEY TRUSTED IN HIS SURGEON SKILLS TO TEND THEM IN RETURN  
HE WAS CALLED TO LEAD THE SEARCH TO FIND LORD FRANKLIN AND HIS MEN  
BUT THE NATIVES SAID NO MARINER SURVIVED  
THERE WERE SAILORS LOST AND STARVING, THERE WERE SAILORS GONE INSANE  
THERE WERE SEVERED BODIES IN THE SNOW AND NO ONE LEFT ALIVE

JOHN RAE, THE ORCADIAN INFORMS THE LEARNED etc.

WHEN JOHN RAE ANNOUNCED IN LONDON HOW THESE BRITISH HEROES DIED  
THERE WAS OUTRAGE AT THIS SLUR ON FRANKLIN'S NAME  
AND THE TESTAMENT OF INUIT (WAS) REJECTED AND DENIED  
BY THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN SWORN TO SAVE HIS HONOUR AND HIS FAME  
FAR AWAY A WORLD IS STIRRING, ONCE AGAIN IT COMES ALIVE  
AND THE SUN IS CLIMBING HIGHER DAY BY DAY  
THE NORTHERN LIGHTS ARE PULSING ALL ACROSS THE ARCTIC SKY  
AND THE VOICES OF THE WILDERNESS ARE CALLING TO JOHN RAE

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