

## — IV. —

IV.  
Instructions to  
Sir James Ross.

PURPORT of INSTRUCTIONS intended to be sent to Sir *James Ross* by the  
“North Star,” forwarded by the Whale Ships.

To the Master of the Ship —.

Sir,

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty being desirous of effecting a communication, in the course of the ensuing season, with Her Majesty's ships “Enterprise” and “Investigator,” which were sent out last year under the orders of Captain Sir James Ross, in search of Captain Sir John Franklin's expedition, and deeming it expedient to multiply as much as possible the chances of effecting this communication,—

I am commanded by their Lordships to transmit to you herewith a despatch, addressed to Captain Sir James Ross, of the “Enterprise,” in the hope that, should you enter or approach Lancaster's Sound, you may have an opportunity of delivering the same to some officer or party belonging to Sir James Ross's expedition, and who are hereby authorized to open it.

My Lords have reasonable hope that such an opportunity may occur if the ship under your command should enter Lancaster's Sound, as the “Investigator” was ordered to pass the winter of 1848-9 somewhere near Cape Rennell (which is marked \* in the accompanying chart), and to send a boat into Lancaster's Sound this summer for the express purpose of receiving a communication from England. You will therefore perceive how desirable it will be for you to keep a vigilant look-out for any such boat, should you enter or approach Lancaster Sound.

In order still further to increase the chances of the desired communication with the “Enterprise” and “Investigator,” their Lordships have caused to be forwarded to your address 12 cylinders, each containing a copy of the despatch now committed to your charge. Their Lordships request that, should opportunity offer, you will cause one of these cylinders to be carefully deposited (in the manner hereinafter mentioned) at each of the following places, marked on the accompanying chart; viz. Whaler Point, Cape York, Cape Crawford, Cape Hay, Possession Bay, Pond's Bay, Agnes' Monument: or, if this should not be practicable, in any other conspicuous places on the same line of coast; observing, however, that those named have been specially selected by Sir James Ross, and are therefore by far the most important.

The following mode of depositing the cylinders is recommended as most likely to answer the intended purpose:

Select a spot which is conspicuous from a boat rowing near the shore, and not very far from the sea. Bury the cylinder from a foot to 18 inches beneath the surface, making the ground quite smooth again, and then pile over the spot a large heap of stones, with a staff in the centre.

In addition to the foregoing precautions, and as a mode of possible communication still more easy to be adopted, you are requested to cause not less than four water-tight casks, of large size, to be fitted with a short pole carrying a small flag or tin vane, each cask to enclose one of the cylinders before mentioned, carefully packed to prevent its being damaged, and to drop these casks in different places four or five leagues apart, as far to the westward as possible in Lancaster's Sound, but in those parts where the sea is most generally free from ice; marking on the enclosed chart the places where you drop them, and making a memorandum of the dates.

It is scarcely necessary to add that, should you fall in with either of the ships, or with one of their boats, it will be of the utmost importance to receive in writing from the commanding officer a full account of the past proceedings of the expedition, and most especially to ascertain whether any information has been obtained, or any traces discovered, of the ships under Sir John Franklin's orders: and, on your arrival in England, you are requested to transmit to the Secretary of the Admiralty, without delay, a full account of the information you may have been enabled to collect, and of the measures you may have adopted in compliance with their Lordships' wishes now explained to you. And if it should happen that,