

Proceedings of Capt. Inglefield. to him or Captain Kellett; but should neither be present, act upon them myself with the least possible delay.

Their Lordships will readily understand how difficult it is to surmise upon a subject of so much uncertainty, and I thus feel it is needless in an official despatch to enter into all my views and intentions consequent upon the failure of getting through Melville Bay. I will, however, briefly state for their Lordships' information, that I have landed 20 casks of beef and pork at this place with about 220 tons of coal; the former with a view to being of use, should any casualty occur to the expedition in Melville Bay, and, at any rate, otherwise necessary for the passage home of the vessel calling for the supply of fuel.

The warrant officers whose inebriety I had occasion to speak of in my letter to their Lordships of 15th May last, have since behaved entirely to my satisfaction, and I ordered Mr. Osborne back to his duties as ice-master of the "Talbot" on the 19th ultimo.

On my landing at this place a salute was fired by the Governor as upon former occasions; I regret to say, however, that an Esquimaux, who was loading, suffered severely by the explosion of the small magazine, containing 8 lbs. of powder, which he was holding under his arm, when the flash from the neighbouring gun exploded the whole quantity; one eye is completely destroyed, and his leg and hand much lacerated. The doctors of this ship and the "Talbot" have attended him, and he is rapidly recovering. I have ordered him to be supplied with such medical comforts as we could afford, and, if it is considered necessary by our surgeon, I propose taking him to the hospital at Jacob's Haven when we leave this port, there being no medical man at this place.

For the purpose of examining the coal mines, I propose to go north, by the passage of the Waigat, and trust in my next despatch to be able to afford their Lordships some information on this subject.

Herewith are forwarded specimens of leather from the "Talbot" rudder-coat, showing its decayed state, and the cause of the leakage.

I have only further to add that we are at this moment, 4 P.M., getting underweigh, with "Talbot" in tow. "Diligence" running out with a fair wind from the eastward.

I have, &c.

E. A. INGLEFIELD, Captain.

Commander ROBERT JENKINS to Captain E. A. INGLEFIELD, Her Majesty's Ship "Phoenix."

Her Majesty's Ship "Talbot" at Sea,
Friday, 26th May 1854.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that in consequence of the rudder coating being badly fitted, the gun-room, all the lower deck cabins, and the magazine have been flooded, and a great quantity of the bread in the cabins has been thereby totally destroyed.

Whenever there has been any sea, the watch were obliged to be kept constantly at the fire-engine from the gun-room, and the pumps from the well.

I have also to acquaint you that the main deck and cabins have been afloat, the water coming through the hawse holes, scuppers, and ports. The upper deck also leaking, the nails of the butt-ends of the diagonal doubling having split the waterway plank in a line fore and aft; I think it right therefore to inform you of the same that the earliest opportunity may be taken for examining the perishable stores stowed in the after part of the ship.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT JENKINS, Commander.

No. 3.

Captain E. A. INGLEFIELD to the SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Her Majesty's Steam Ship "Phoenix,"

Sir,

at Four Island Point, 9th July 1854.

THREE days back I despatched by the "Diligence" to England a letter containing an account of our proceedings up to that date (a duplicate of which I now enclose.) The opportunity that will shortly offer of sending