

No. 17.

The SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY to CAPTAIN NARES.

SIR,

Admiralty, 24th May 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that they have received from Mr. Allen Young, by his yacht "Pandora," the various letters, &c. which you left at the Carey Islands, and subsequently from the Danish authorities, those left at Upernivik.

2. By your communication of the 9th July (*vide* page 8), their Lordships became aware of your intention to direct Captain Stephenson of the "Discovery," to communicate with the entrance to Smith's Sound in the spring, and possibly in the autumn of 1876. Under these circumstances, although they were not anticipated, my Lords have made arrangements with Mr. Allen Young to communicate if possible with the depôts in the summer of this year, in order to obtain any records which may have been deposited on the passage of the Expedition to the North, during the summer of 1875, or any letters which may have been sent from the ships during the spring of this year.

3. Mr. Allen Young, if he is enabled to reach or discover the depôts, will also deposit letters for the two ships, and several parcels of newspapers which their Lordships have forwarded, and if success attend his exertions, and he is able to reach the places indicated in your various letters, with which he has been made acquainted, my Lords hope to receive satisfactory information respecting the progress of the Expedition.

4. My Lords have only further to state that they will carry out their intention respecting a ship proceeding to Smith's Sound in the year 1877, as indicated in the instructions with which you have been furnished.

I am, &c.

ROBERT HALL.

Captain Nares, H.M.S. "Alert,"
or the Officer Commanding the Arctic Expedition.

No. 18.

The SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY to MR. ALLEN YOUNG.

SIR,

16th May 1876.

As the time is approaching for your leaving England in the Yacht "Pandora" with the intention of communicating with the depôts of the Polar ships "Alert" and "Discovery," under the command of Captain Nares, at the entrance of Smith's Sound, my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty desire to transmit for your information a copy of the instructions which were given to the above officer, copies of all letters received from him since he left England in June 1875, and a communication from him with enclosures dated 14th July 1875, containing information and certain instructions to Captain Stephenson, of H.M.S. "Discovery," with a view of communication being held with the depôts at the entrance of Smith's Sound in the spring and autumn of 1876.

2. From these various documents you will observe not only what was the original object of the Expedition, but you will gain full information respecting Captain Nares' subsequent intentions and the positions where he proposed to place the depôts as he advanced through Smith's Sound, and with which it is wished that you should, if possible, hold communication.

3. In case of finding any public documents addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty or to members of the Board, my Lords authorize you to open them, as you may obtain important information respecting the ships or crews on which you might find it expedient to act; you might, after their perusal, consider it necessary to leave information at, or near, or in the depôts, which might prove of value to the ships on their return voyage to England.

4. All letters conveyed from England should be deposited either in a separate cairn or depôt, as you may in your judgment see fit, on some well marked and conspicuous place, or in two or more places, as you may consider most expedient to ensure their being received by the ships or travelling parties.

5. My Lords do not desire, nor do they deem it necessary to give you any specific directions respecting your intended voyage. Your own nautical knowledge and experience of the Polar Sea and its navigation must be your chief guide for carrying out the great undertaking which you have entered upon, in order to meet the views of