

Captain COLLINSON, C.B., to the SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Sir,

Her Majesty's Ship Enterprize, Port Clarence,
September 14th, 1854.

In accordance with my letter transmitted by H.M.S. Rattlesnake, on the 22d ultimo, I left this port on that date, reached Point Barrow upon the 28th, the Plover having arrived the same morning. After communicating and obtaining despatches, we returned and anchored here on the 8th instant. Having completed water, and taken a quantity of provisions and extra stores which their Lordships had caused to be put on board that vessel for our use, it is my intention to proceed as soon as the wind will admit to Hongkong, and from thence to England. The Plover being very leaky in her topsides, and there being no pitch wherewith to caulk her, I have directed Commander Maguire to call at Honolulu instead of San Francisco, on his passage to Valparaiso, as he will thereby avoid the heavy gales of wind which prevail at this season on the N.W. coast of America.

The caches left by Commander Trollope having been disturbed by the natives, all the provisions have been removed. The Herald's decked pinnace, with her gear complete (the latter buried under her bows), has been left upon the beach, and with the excellent house erected by the Rattlesnake may prove servicable in the event of any of the whale ships being shipwrecked.

The wintering of the two vessels in these seas has been productive of a most friendly feeling among the Esquimaux, and will, I have little doubt, leave a lasting impression. More particularly has the judicious conduct of Commander Maguire effected a total change in the inhabitants of Point Barrow and its neighbourhood, which, now that the fishery is opened to that point (five vessels in consequence of my recommendation having fished off there with success this season), and in all probability it will be carried in fortified vessels to the Mackenzie, will prove of great importance to the safety and health of the crews employed, not only with respect to supplies, but ensuring safety and transmission along the coast in the event of any disaster. On meeting the Enterprize to the east of the Colville, the Point Barrow people produced venison and geese, saying they had been told by Maguire to bring them to us.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD COLLINSON, Captain.

Captain COLLINSON, C.B., to the SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Sir,

Her Majesty's Ship Enterprize, Hong Kong,
November 9th, 1854.

I have the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's ship under my command arrived here on the 1st instant, after a passage of 44 days from Port Clarence. The ship's company are, I am happy to say, enjoying the same degree of health as when we left the ice.

The extra stores and comforts which were obtained from the Rattlesnake and the Plover have, I have no doubt, contributed to this effect, and I hope to pass through the Tropics without their suffering so much as might be expected from change of climate.

After a stay of a fortnight, it is my intention to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope by the Straits of Sunda.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD COLLINSON, Captain.

Captain W. A. B. HAMILTON to Captain COLLINSON, C.B.

Sir,

Admiralty, November 8th, 1854.

I have received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 22d August last.

The intelligence it contains of the safe arrival of the Enterprize, under your command, at Port Clarence, relieves my Lords of great anxiety, and has been received by them with much satisfaction.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. B. HAMILTON.