

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN MELVILLE ISLAND, Lieutenant G. F. MECHAM, between 21st September and 14th October 1852, and 4th April and 6th July 1853, with Auxiliary under Mr. G. S. NARES, Mate, between 21st September and 16th October 1852, and 4th April and 14th June 1853.

JOURNAL of the Proceedings of Her Majesty's Sledge "DISCOVERY," detached from H.M. Ship "Resolute," between the 4th April and 6th July 1853, under the Command of G. F. MECHAM, Lieutenant.

ORDERS to Lieutenant G. F. MECHAM. H.M. Ship "Resolute."

By Henry Kellett, Esquire, C.B., Captain of H.M. Ship "Resolute."

1. The object and direction of your journey is the most persevering and extended search along the S.W. coast of Melville Island for our missing countrymen, or traces. For this purpose (being unable with our resources, from the number of directions of search it is necessary to follow, to give you a ten-man party), you will take the command of H.M. Sledge "Discovery," manned with seven men, and under your orders the officer and crew of the "Perseverance" also manned with seven men; the officer in command of which has directions to place himself under your orders.

2. Leaving the ship as soon as in all ways ready, you will proceed in company with "Perseverance" to Winter Harbour, and from thence across the land to Liddon Gulf, following the coast of Melville Island *westerly* as far as practicable, returning to this ship without fail by 15th July.

3. You will retain your auxiliary under your orders, as long as they can be useful to you.

4. As data for putting on paper the new coast you march along can be obtained without *any delay* for that purpose, you will not fail to obtain them. On your working chart you will daily, at the conclusion of your march, lay off your true course and estimated distance, sketching in the coast between, and making notes as to the nature and character of the land passed.

5. You will transmit to me on your return, a journal of your proceedings with all data, drawings, &c. &c., connected with your journey, that you may have made.

6. You will name in your angle-book, to assist the memory in laying down your work, all new points and headlands by some name characteristic of themselves.

7. It is just possible, that as you and Commander M'Clintock are both marching west, and being supplied to make your marches very extensive, you may meet, with still time and provisions left. Under this circumstance you will consult with him, and do what you think best for the advancement of the object of our mission.

8. Should off-lying land be seen from a neighbouring height within reach with your still remaining resources, or if one could give to the other sufficient, you would not fail to visit it, bearing in mind that any useless delay in returning to your ship would be a great sacrifice when there is yet so much to be done.

9. Records are to be deposited in conspicuous places, one in the cairn, and another 10 feet true north from it. At your most advanced position, you will, in addition to the records, place one of the charts with which you are supplied, putting on it as near as possible all that you have yourself discovered, with any additional useful remarks.

10. It is unnecessary for me to caution you as to the care of your men; you know their value.

11. Your equipment and victualling has been entirely under your own direction, and has my approval.

12. Your line of search is a most important one, particularly if you can reach the western extreme.

13. You yourself being a veteran in Arctic travelling, and also some under your command, I have great expectations from your journey; I feel confident that you will attempt anything for the good of the service you are about to be employed on.