

— No. 13. —

III.  
Expedition to  
Behring's Straits.Her Majesty's Brig "Plover," Woahoo,  
Sandwich Islands, 23 August 1848.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I sailed from Callao on the 8th ultimo, after completing provisions, water, &c., and arrived at this place this afternoon. I should not have called at these islands, even for the despatches left here by the "Pandora," from Captain Kellett, but that I found I should lose no time by so doing. I am happy to report that both officers and men are in most excellent health.

The charts, &c. left here by the "Pandora" for me, will be of great assistance to me in making Behring's Straits at this advanced season of the year.

I beg also to inform their Lordships, that so soon as I shall have completed my water and got fresh rates for my chronometers (which I regret to say are not going at all well), I shall make all possible despatch for Behring's Straits, and that the most strenuous exertions, as heretofore, will be made to make up for the loss of time occasioned by the excessive slow sailing of the "Plover," and that should any unforeseen circumstance (such as the winter setting in sooner than usual) occur so as to prevent my getting through the straits, I shall winter at Petropauloski or Port Clarence; but again beg to assure their Lordships that I feel the greatest possible anxiety as to being there in time, and that not a moment shall be lost in endeavouring to render every assistance to Sir John Franklin and his expedition.

I have filled up (prior to leaving Callao) provisions of every description, sufficient to last until next July (1849).

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas E. L. Moore,*  
Commander.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,  
London.

— No. 14. —

Her Majesty's Ship "Herald,"  
Panama, 25 January 1849.

Sir,

IN consequence of the cholera, which is very prevalent and fatal here at this moment, the January mail has been detained at Chiagres, so that I cannot answer by return any instruction I may receive from their Lordships.

Not having found any here, and a considerable portion of their former orders remaining unexecuted, I beg to submit for their information the manner I propose to fulfil them.

The moment I get on board my provisions and stores sent by the Commander-in-chief to meet me here, I shall proceed northerly from Coiba Island along the coast, surveying to the middle or end of March, when I shall leave the coast and proceed to Oahu, where I have requested the Commander-in-chief will cause my stores and provisions to be sent, and in the following quantities: 12 months complete for "Plover," and eight months for this ship, which is about as much as I can stow on my decks.

From Oahu I shall proceed to Petropauloski and Behring's Straits, to meet the "Plover."

As the "Plover" could not have reached the point directed by their Lordships, I am (having little information) at a loss to know whether the "Plover" ought to be placed there this year. In the absence of further orders, I shall if possible place her there, and return at the expiration of the fine season to the north, to the port of Mazatlan, for orders.

I feel, sir, that though I have been unavoidably and painfully unsuccessful in meeting the "Plover," that the service of this ship has not been thrown away, inasmuch as we obtained all the information that could be obtained at that season, that if any of the party to whose assistance we were sent should come near that part, they would know from the natives that their Lordships were endeavouring to send relief to them.

I have submitted for the Hydrographer's approval, the manner in which I propose to employ the "Pandora" during my absence.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Kellett, Captain.*

The Secretary of the Admiralty.  
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