

Island, the position of the respective ships under your orders, the state of the depôts, &c. All their Lordships can do is to confide in your judgment; and they authorize you to take such steps, and give such orders, and to make such exchanges of officers and men, as you may deem necessary for carrying their wishes into effect.

They trust, however, Captain Collinson is safe; and if so, it will be a source of much satisfaction to them if, during the approaching autumn, the whole of your ships and crews shall arrive in England.

On the return of any of the ships to England from Beechey Island, it is desirable that the coast to the southward of Ponds Bay, namely, from the river Clyde towards Cape Walsingham, should be examined; and you are therefore to endeavour, in your instruction to the ships proceeding to England, to meet this contingency.

In the event of your health rendering it necessary for you to return to England, and the necessity of a part of the squadron remaining out another winter, you are to make known to the officer whom you may appoint to succeed you in command all your views and arrangements, respecting further proceedings.

Although this country is now at war with Russia, you are clearly to understand that you are not to commit any hostile act whatever, the ships under your command having been fitted out for the sole purpose of aiding those engaged in scientific discoveries, and it being the established practice of all civilized nations to consider vessels so employed as exempt from the operations of war.

I am, &c.
(signed) *R. Osborne.*
