

therefore, to endeavour, in your instruction to the ships proceeding to England, to meet this contingency. Orders to Sir Edward Belcher.

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.

R. OSBORNE.

No. 2.

Captain E. A. INGLEFIELD to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

Proceedings of Capt. Inglefield.

Her Majesty's Steam Ship "Phoenix," at Lievely Disco,
5th July 1854.

Sir,

James Clinch, A.B.
Jas. Hassell, A.B.
Thos. Doughty, A.B.
Chas. Gill, A.B.
Josh. Bucket, A.B.
Robt. Meddes, A.B.
Anty. Meddes, A.B.

I HAVE the honour to report to you for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I have this day despatched the "Diligence" to England, after taking seven volunteers from her, as per margin, in lieu of six men sent home from this ship and the "Talbot," considered by the doctor unequal to endure the rigours of an arctic climate, or for reasons of inefficiency.

Being off Holsteinborg on the 8th June, after a favourable passage, I deemed it necessary to put into that port for the purpose of examining the stores placed in the gun-room, lower deck cabins, and bread-room of the "Talbot," continual leakage having occurred ever since the ship sailed from Stromness, owing to the imperfect fitting of the rudder-coat. I enclose a copy of Commander Jenkin's letter to me of 26th May last, reporting the circumstance; and, herewith, reports of survey I ordered to be held on the vessel and damaged bread, by which their Lordships will perceive that 12,096 lbs. of bread have been totally destroyed and thrown overboard. The leak was so continual, and the water that found its way into the after part of the ship so abundant, that it was necessary with any sea way to keep hands continually at the fire-engine, to draw the water off the deck of the gun-room, which was literally flooded, as well as all the cabins on the lower deck.

I am happy to say that we have succeeded in carrying 1,700 lbs. of fresh beef, and 968 lbs. of vegetables in excellent preservation; and this supply is being kept solely for the use of Sir Edward Belcher's expedition.

The past winter is spoken of by the Danish authorities as very severe in Greenland, and the ice has only lately broken away off Disco. Three whalers put into Lievely damaged, but had repaired and sailed ere I reached that island. Snow and hail occasionally fell whilst we remained at Holsteinborg, and this is an occurrence which has not taken place in the month of June since the residence of the present Governor in Greenland, now upwards of twenty-nine years. I mention these facts that their Lordships may not be too sanguine as to the success of the expedition with which they have been pleased to entrust me; but they may be assured that, whilst on the one hand nothing shall be wanting (as far as exertion or enterprise can command,) to carry out their Lordships' directions, still on the other, I feel certain that though no provision is made in my orders for the possible contingency of not being able to effect a passage to Lancaster Sound, that it is farthest from their Lordships' wishes that the vessels should be risked a winter in Baffin's Bay, by too long a perseverance in the object of the enterprise. Should we only succeed in reaching Dundas Harbour, I should probably feel it my duty then to place the "Talbot" in secure winter quarters at that spot, and leaving her with the fewest possible number of hands, dispatch the "Phoenix" to England with Commander Jenkins or Lieutenant Elliott, proceeding on foot myself to Beechey Island, with their Lordships' despatches to Sir Edward Belcher, and deliver them