

soon as possible, to communicate with Lieut. Greely by sledge parties; the men not so employed to lose no time in preparing a house for the whole party, and securing the stores preparatory to the arrival of Lieut. Greely." Yet, under these positive orders, though Commander Wildes actually visited Littleton Island in search of Lieut. Garlington, and the latter when found at Upernavik by the "Yantic," after the burning of the "Proteus," might have gone in that vessel back to Littleton Island,—"*no attempt was made,*" says Secretary Chandler, "*by either Lieut. Garlington or Commander Wildes to establish a relief party at Littleton Island,* for which point Lieut. Greely was under orders to start not later than Sept. 1st"—and, it may be added, did start on Aug. 19th, 1883. Perhaps one chief reason for the unfortunate *fiasco* of 1883, was the failure to start from St. John's in time. Lieut. Schley started from New York in 1884, about May 1st, and reached Cape Sabine as early as June 22nd, by which most gracious Providence he saved the lives of five men, and prolonged the lives of two others—none of whom could have survived 48 hours longer without such timely aid. But neither the "Proteus" nor "Yantic" left St. John's in 1883 until June 27th, and they did not leave Disco Island until July 15th and 26th. Whose fault was this? that of the Navy Department or the expeditionary forces? Perhaps all the disasters to the "Proteus," and to Greely and his twenty-four companions, might have been avoided if the relief expedition of 1883 had sailed from St. John's and pushed right on to Littleton Island and Cape Sabine one month or six weeks earlier. But, starting late as they did, it appears to the impartial critic of 1886, that the sole purpose of the expedition, the location of a relief party with ample supplies at Littleton Island, after the failure to reach Greely at Fort Conger, might have been effected if the