

entirely with coals, (of which the Hecla stowed seventy, and the Griper thirty-four chaldrons), together with such a quantity of fire-wood as was necessary for the stowage of the casks in the holds.

To add to our warmth, and to keep out the snow during the winter, a housing-cloth was prepared of the same materials as that with which waggons are usually covered, and which being laid on planks, supported amidships by spars lashed fore and aft between the masts, and resting with their lower ends on the gunwale, completely answered the purpose for which it was intended.

Care was taken to provide abundance of warm clothing, and one suit of the best quality was liberally furnished for each man employed in the Expedition, to be served *gratis* at my discretion. Among the numerous articles of this kind which contributed essentially to our comfort, a wolf-skin blanket was supplied for each officer and man, which, in addition to those of the common sort, effectually kept the people warm in their beds, although from the necessary economy in fuel, the temperature of the decks was frequently much below the freezing point during the nights.

To be prepared against the chances of meeting with any natives in the countries which we were about to visit, the ships were directed to be furnished with a large quantity of various kinds of presents, both to secure their friendship, and to purchase any supplies of which we might stand in need. In short, nothing was omitted which could in any degree tend to the success of the enterprise, or to the health, convenience, and comfort of those engaged in it. I feel myself particularly indebted to the kindness of Commissioner Cunningham, and the officers employed under him in the different departments