

No. 14.

The Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State.

Navy Department, Washington,
19th January 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th December last, and the copy of the note of the 26th of December from the British Minister, making certain inquiries concerning the stores or provisions which were sent out by the United States Government for the relief of the "Polaris" Expedition. I beg leave to state that it is not practicable to furnish an exact inventory of stores, &c. left by the "Polaris" Expedition on the west coast of Greenland, but I enclose such information as is in the possession of this Department, with an approximate list of articles cached or otherwise secured or deposited, and a description of the localities in which they were left.

All or any of these stores are at the service of the Polar Expedition to be despatched in 1875 by Her Majesty's Government, and in the event of their use, the Department will accept such inventory and appraisement as may be made by the order of the commander of the expedition. If the *pendulum* should be recovered at Life Boat Cove, the Department hopes that it may be practicable to use it in connection with such observations as may be made by the British Expedition with its own instrument. On the return of the expedition the Department will be gratified to receive the pendulum, and also any other instruments, and such arms, implements, and books as may have been recovered. The Department takes this occasion to express its most cordial wishes for the success of the British Expedition of 1875 towards the North Pole by way of Smith's Sound.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEO. M. ROBESON,
Secretary of the Navy.

No. 15.

United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.,
9th January 1875.

SIR,

IN answer to your inquiries concerning the stores and provisions deposited on the west coast of Greenland by the "Polaris" Expedition, I have the honour to submit the following report:—

There were three different deposits made: one on Cape Sumner, another at Thank God Harbour, and the third near Life Boat Cove.

Two crews left their boats, one a whaleboat twenty-four feet long, and the other the "Heggelman," canvas boat, on Cape Sumner, at the southern entrance of Newman's Bay, in latitude $81^{\circ} 51' N.$, and travelled on foot over the land to the ship. No list was made of the articles secured with the boats.* The following is a complete list of what each boat took from the ships:—

Provisions, &c. for Whaleboat.

135 lbs. pemmican.	12 cans of milk.
192 „ preserved meats.	100 boxes of sardines.
23 „ tripe.	400 cartridges (Sharp's rifle).
76 „ Polar cake.	100 „ centre fire (Navy pistol).
24 „ ham.	1 grapnel.
31 „ molasses.	2 whale irons.
200 „ bread.	2 lances.
30 „ chocolate.	25 fathoms spare lance warp.
22 „ coffee.	1 spare set of rudder pindles (?).
50 „ oatmeal.	6 sleeping bags.
36 „ sugar.	1 tent.
20 „ cheese.	1 boat cover.

* A few cases of preserved meat and a little bread, about 500 cartridges, one shot gun, two rifles, one box chronometer, two sextants.