

— No. 2.—

NARRATIVE of the PROCEEDINGS of Captain *Kellett*, of Her Majesty's Ship "Herald," and Commander *Moore*, and Lieutenant *Pullen*, of Her Majesty's Sloop "Plover," through *Behring's Straits*, and towards the Mouth of the *Mackenzie River*.

Sir,

Her Majesty's Ship "Herald,"
November 22, 1849.

No. 2.

Narrative of Proceedings of Capt. Kellett, Commander Moore, and Lieut. Pullen.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a circumstantial account of my proceedings since leaving Oahu on the 19th of May last.

Passing to the southward of Oneehow and Lissiansky Island, and close to the position of Byen's and Morrell's Islands, without meeting with either of the two latter, we sighted Kamschatka, at 6 a.m. on the 22d of June: there we picked up a fresh gale off the land, which ran me within a mile of Cape Gavarea, and left me in a dead calm. My position would have been critical had I not found at this distance bottom in 30 fathoms.

At daylight three ships were in sight off the Point of Petropaulski, the mirage transforming them into every imaginable shape. With light variable winds, assisted by our boats, and a slight northerly current, we reached an anchorage in the entrance, in 15 fathoms, by 7 p.m.

Off Petropaulski.

This voyage occupied 35 days, and was only remarkable for the lightness of the winds, the fineness of the weather, and the almost entire absence of fog, twenty-four hours never having elapsed without having obtained observations, either by day or night, for the position of the ship.

Anchored in entrance of Awatska Bay.

The three vessels we had noticed proved to be American whale ships that had also towed into an anchorage. I boarded one of them, and learned that they had left the port the day before, but having lost some men, had returned to pick them up. From this vessel I also learned that the "Plover" had not been to Petropaulski, but that a report was current of a vessel having wintered somewhere to the northward.

This information determined me to go to the anchorage with the ship, if I could do so without loss of time, getting at the same time two boats ready to proceed there and obtain information, in case it should continue calm.

The wood at this port is excellent, the water easily obtained, and the best I have ever tasted. At Chamisso Island, to have taken in the same quantity of water I did here, would have cost me days for hours.

Awatska Bay.

A fine northerly breeze springing up at midnight, although foul, I weighed with the ship, shortly after despatching the boats. The wind freshened with the tide in our favour, and we came to at 7 a.m., in our former anchorage off the watering-place.

In our passage up, the masters of the American vessels came on board to gain information relative to Behring's Straits, whither they were bound; they informed me that at least 20 American vessels would pass through those straits this year, in consequence of the success of one of their vessels last season. The master of the successful vessel appears to have been an enterprising man; he had a roving commission from his owner, but having been unsuccessful in the Japanese Seas, and reading in Captain Beechey's voyage of the number of whales he had seen in the Arctic Sea, he determined to go there; he did so, and succeeded, entering the straits with a clear ship, and returning about six weeks after, with 4,000 barrels.

Entered the harbour of Petropaulski.

The Governor at Petropaulski had not heard of a vessel having wintered to the northward, nor could he inform me from what source such a report could have sprung.

I found lying here the Royal Thames Yacht Club schooner "Nancy Dawson," owned and commanded by a Mr. Shedden, formerly a mate in the Royal Navy. He informed me that his object in coming here was to go through the straits, and as far north as possible, in search of Sir John Franklin's Expedition: he was last from Hong Kong, having touched at the Loo Choo Islands. She is well found in provisions, stores and instruments: her crew were entered at Hong Kong⁷ (the