

proceed direct for Clarence Harbour, in order to ascertain if any party, or later intelligence from the "Plover," shall have arrived there; and failing this, you will use your best endeavours to proceed with the "Rattlesnake" to Cape Lisburne, where you will probably meet with the officer and boat's crew of the "Plover," which Commander Maguire, in his letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, No. 38, of the 20th August last, states will be at that point on the 15th July 1853.

15 February 1853.

You will deliver to this officer the accompanying despatch for Commander Maguire, and of which you have a copy, together with a copy of your own orders, and supplying him with what his boat can carry, and may most desire, making sure of your return with the "Rattlesnake" to Grantley Harbour, Port Clarence, before the season of 1853 is too far advanced.

Your ship is in all respects fitted and provided for the service upon which you are employed, and you are well acquainted with all that is necessary on such occasions for the health of those under your orders, and for the security of Her Majesty's ship. You will employ your people as far as is practicable in the winter months, in the preparations necessary for every operation in the spring, or so soon as the opening of the ice will admit of carrying supplies to Commander Maguire, or to other points, as circumstances may determine.

You will take every means of leaving proper records of your condition and intended proceedings, and of the positions where you may have deposited provisions; taking as your guide for the distinctive mark of such records, the instructions contained in par. 7 of our orders to Sir E. Belcher, and Sir E. Belcher's direction in his letter to the Lords of the Admiralty of 29th May 1852, in furtherance of these orders. And you will also convey every information to us by the whale ships which pass through the Strait on their return to the respective countries to which they belong; you are not to confine your communications to one ship alone, but by every opportunity to keep us informed of every circumstance connected with your own ship, and also the "Plover."

In the summer of 1854 a vessel will be despatched from the Pacific squadron to communicate with Clarence Harbour at as early a period as possible, and by that means you will receive instructions as to your future proceedings, which may depend on the information which may reach England from Sir Edward Belcher, or from the Western Coast; but should, from any unforeseen circumstance, no vessel be able to reach Clarence Harbour, it is our wish, that before the close of the season of 1854 you should deposit your spare provisions and stores, with a boat, at your winter quarters, and then proceed to Honolulu, and there wait our further orders; and in anticipation of such departure, it would appear to be necessary that, during the winter of 1853 and spring of 1854, you should construct a house at Clarence Harbour capable of containing about 70 persons, and made as complete as circumstances will admit, for the shelter of any of Captain Collinson's Expedition, should they have left their ships, either in boats or by land, and fall back upon that place.

It will be advisable, in the spring of 1854, to forward travelling parties towards the northern shore, for the purpose of inquiring whether anything can be traced of Captain Collinson's party, or of any men from the "Plover;" and as you will receive considerable assistance in this object from the Indians, whose settlements are in the vicinity of your winter quarters, you are to cultivate their good feelings by every means in your power, and to take care that no cause of offence be given to them; and for all supplies of provisions which their hunting parties may procure, you are always to pay in a liberal and proper manner.

You are supplied with all documents and papers connected with the various Polar Searches; and, in closing these orders, we have to express our confidence in your ability, and to leave you to act in such manner as will best fulfil our intentions.

Given under our hands this 9th February 1853.

(signed) *J. R. G. Graham.*
Hyde Parker.
M. F. F. Berkeley.

To Henry Trollope, Esq.
Commander of H. M. S. "Rattlesnake,"
at Portsmouth.

By Command of their Lordships,
W. A. B. Hamilton.