

## ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

### INSTRUCTIONS from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

By the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the  
United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland, &c.*

HAVING appointed you to the command of Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Phoenix," for the purpose of proceeding to Beechey Island in Barrow Straits, you are hereby required and directed to take under your charge Her Majesty's Ship "Talbot," and the Transport "Diligence," and so soon as the former vessel and the "Phoenix," are loaded with provisions, stores, coal and warm clothing for the ships now in the Polar Seas, and the "Diligence" with coal, you will proceed to sea, and make the best of your way to Davis Straits, putting into Disco, or such other harbour as you may deem expedient, for the purpose of transferring the coal from the "Diligence," which transport you are then to direct to return to England; and you are to proceed with the other vessels to Beechey Island.

You are now so well acquainted with the navigation of those seas, and have so successfully performed your previous service, that we do not consider it necessary to bind you with any specific directions, but leave you to carry out the great object of your voyage with the least possible delay, and to the best of your judgment.

We enclose you instructions for Captain Sir Edward Belcher, which you will deliver to him, if at Beechey Island, or, if absent, you are to send them to him, and we also send you herewith a copy of those Orders for your own information and guidance, that in case you should find yourself senior officer on your arrival at that place, you may take the necessary steps to carry out the said orders.

Although this country is now at war with Russia, you are clearly to understand, that you are not to commit any hostile act whatever, the ships under your command having been fitted out for the sole purpose of aiding those engaged in scientific discoveries; and it being the established practice of all civilized nations to consider vessels so employed as exempt from the operations of war.

Given under our hands, this 28th day of April 1854.

(signed) *R. S. Dundas.*  
*Alex. Milne.*

To Edward A. Inglefield, Esq.,  
Captain of Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Phoenix."

By Command of their Lordships,

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*