

SHIP " RATTLE SNAKE."

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 27 April 1853 ;—for,

COPIES OF EXTRACTS " of any MINUTES or other DOCUMENTS connected with the Selection by the late Board of Admiralty of the Ship ' Rattlesnake,' in preference to a Steamer, for the purpose of endeavouring to communicate with the ' Plover : ' "

" And, COPIES of INSTRUCTIONS given by the Board of Admiralty to the Captain of the ' Rattlesnake.' "

Admiralty, }  
3 May 1853. }

J. H. HAY,  
Chief Clerk.

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COPIES OF EXTRACTS of any MINUTES or other DOCUMENTS connected with the Selection by the late Board of Admiralty of the Ship " Rattlesnake," in preference to a Steamer, for the purpose of endeavouring to communicate with the " Plover."

There are no such Papers.

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COPIES of INSTRUCTIONS given by the Board of Admiralty to the Captain of the " Rattlesnake."

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

WHEREAS it is necessary to replenish Her Majesty's Sloop " Plover," now in position at Point Barrow, Bhering Strait, with stores and provisions, as well for the future supply of that vessel, as for the purpose of meeting the wants of the crews of the " Enterprise " and " Investigator," should those ships be driven back upon Bhering Strait, or should circumstances have rendered it imperatively necessary for the crews to abandon them, a course stated by Commander M'Clure (in a letter, dated 20 July 1850, to Captain Kellet), " he might be compelled to adopt after the winter of 1852, by proceeding in the spring of 1853 to quit his vessel with sledges and boats, and make the best of his way to Ponds Bay, Leopold Harbour, the Mackenzie River, or for whalers, according to circumstances.

With the view, therefore, of conveying assistance to the ships at Bhering Strait, we have appropriated the " Rattlesnake " for this service, and we have appointed you to the command of that ship, with a full reliance on your acquaintance with all that is necessary for carrying out the same, and on your personal knowledge of the coast on which you are to be employed. In furtherance of this object, you are hereby required and directed to put to sea so soon as the " Rattlesnake " shall be in all respects ready, and to use every exertion to be off Cape Lisburne, Bhering Strait, at as early a period of this year as possible. In order to aid in this purpose, a steamer will be directed to tow you clear of the Channel, and you will, after watering, if necessary, at Madeira, Teneriffe, or Cape de Verdes, proceed direct to Cape Virgins, on the eastern side of the Strait of Magellan, where a steamer will meet you from Rear Admiral Henderson's Squadron, and will tow you through the Straits, and as much further on your voyage as circumstances will admit. You will then proceed to Valparaiso and replenish with provisions and other stores, and from thence continue your voyage to Honolulu, in the Sandwich Islands; and, having taken on board whatever may be required, especially potatoes and other vegetables for your own ship, as well as the " Plover," you will, without any unnecessary delay at that port, proceed