

## — III. —

EXPEDITION to *Behring's Straits*. Progress of the Expedition under Captain Kellett, of Her Majesty's Ship "*Herald*," and Commander Moore, of Her Majesty's Ship "*Plover*."

III.  
Expedition to  
*Behring's Straits*.

## — No. 1. —

Her Majesty's Ship "*Collingwood*," Valparaiso,  
27 March 1848.

Sir,

CAPTAIN KELLETT, of Her Majesty's Ship "*Herald*," has transmitted to me a copy of the orders, bearing date the 13th of December, which he has received from their Lordships to take the "*Plover*" under his directions, and to proceed to Behring's Straits, for the purpose of affording relief to the expedition in the Arctic Seas, under Sir John Franklin.

Captain Kellett has also, under an uncertainty whether the "*Plover*" contains the stores and equipments for his crew which the service in that climate may render necessary, sent me lists of those he estimates to be necessary, some of which I have directed to be purchased, not being in store; and also demands for provisions for a year.

As the period of the season makes it advisable that the utmost dispatch should be used to enable the "*Herald*" to leave Panama at the commencement of May in order to reach Behring's Straits near the time specified in their Lordships' orders, I am about to dispatch Her Majesty's steam ship "*Sampson*," with her supplies, to Panama, as soon as some repairs are completed which the "*Sampson*" requires; and shall direct Captain Henderson to assist the "*Herald*," if necessary, with the steam power of the "*Sampson*" in clearing the Gulf of Panama and the prevailing calms in its vicinity, which is the more requisite as Captain Kellett informs me that on two previous occasions, during his services, six weeks have been consumed by him in the passage from Panama as far to the westward as Clapperton's Rock.

The same consideration with regard to the inexpediency of the "*Plover's*" proceeding to Panama for the purpose of joining the "*Herald*," will induce me, should she touch at Valparaiso or Callao, on her arrival in the Pacific, while I remain in the command, to direct Commander Moore to proceed direct from this coast to the island of Woahoo, which Captain Kellett deems, as well as myself, to be a preferable rendezvous for vessels proceeding to Behring's Straits; and I shall apprise Captain Kellett of my intentions by the packet which leaves Valparaiso for Panama on the 30th instant.

I hope the circumstances stated, and the great delay which will be caused by the "*Plover*" proceeding to Panama, may induce their Lordships to approve of the deviation from their orders which I propose to authorize, should the "*Plover*" touch at either port, where I may have an opportunity of directing her to proceed direct to Woahoo to meet the "*Herald*."

I have, &c.

H. G. Ward, Esq. M. P.,  
&c. &c.

(signed) G. F. Seymour,  
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

## — No. 2. —

Her Majesty's Ship "*Herald*,"  
Panama, 25 April 1848.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the following dates:—

Of the 8th January 1848, informing me that the Russian government had sent orders to Petropaulosk and Kamtsatka, to render all assistance to the "*Herald*" and "*Plover*."

Of the 10th March 1848, desiring me to be guided by the information contained in the paper marked (B.); but as I have not received any paper with such