

## No. 6.

Capt. NARES to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

"Alert" at Disco,  
12th July 1875.

SIR,

WITH reference to a Memo. received from Admiral George Elliot, Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, on Admiralty letter of the 18th May last, respecting what communication should be made to any of the vessels of the whaling fleet which might prosecute their voyage far northward in 1876-77.

2. I have the honour to inform you that early in the spring of each year which the Expedition remains in the Arctic Sea, dispatches will be sent to the entrance of Smith's Sound.

3. Should any of the whaling fleet be in that neighbourhood they may expect to find them deposited in a cairn, either on Sutherland Island, Lyttelton Island, or Gale Point, on the west side of the Strait.

4. The papers will be buried 20 feet *magnetic* north of the cairn.

I am, &amp;c.

The Secretary of the  
Admiralty.

(Signed)

G. S. NARES, Captain,  
Commanding Arctic Expedition.

## No. 7.

Capt. NARES to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

"Alert," at Disco,  
15th July 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that H.M. Ships, under my command, left Bantry Bay on the 2nd June. The "Valorous" arrived at this port on the 4th, and the "Alert" and "Discovery" on the 6th instant.

After leaving the Irish Coast, finding that the "Valorous" could not keep station while we were under sail alone, I directed her to part company, and make her voyage independently.

During the passage we encountered three consecutive gales from the westward, and after passing Cape Farewell one from the northward, each accompanied with high seas.

Owing to the heavy lading of the Arctic ships, they were extremely wet and uneasy, which necessitated the hatchways to be frequently battened down, otherwise they behaved well.

The "Alert" and "Discovery" each lost a whale boat during a heavy gale on the 13th June; beyond this loss, I am happy to say that the defects of the ships are merely nominal. The "Valorous" will supply two boats to replace those lost.

On the night of the 13th June (while the "Alert" was wearing) the "Discovery" was lost sight of during a heavy squall, and the two ships did not again join company until the 30th, in Davis' Strait.

The "Valorous" having economised her coal as much as possible, has been able to complete each of the Arctic ships with as much as they can carry, and has remaining for her return passage a quantity equal to that expended during her outward voyage.

All the provisions and stores brought here by the "Valorous" for our use have been taken on board, and we are now complete in all respects for three years from 1st July 1875.

After passing Cape Farewell each ship fell in with losse pack ice from 50 to 60 miles south-west of Cape Desolation, with a clear sea to the westward of it; it was the *debris* of very thick ice, and had evidently been carried round Cape Farewell from the east coast of Greenland. The ice extended north as far as latitude 62° 30', since which none has been sighted within 60 miles of the coast; there has also been a remarkable absence of icebergs.

Mr. Krarup Smith, the Inspector of North Greenland, and the other Danish officials have been extremely obliging in giving me every information in their power, and in providing for our wants.

Mr. Smith has arranged for my being supplied with all the dogs we require; 25 have been received from Disco, and 20 are to be ready on our arrival at Ritenbenk, the rest will be taken on board at Upernivik.

An Esquimaux accompanies the Expedition from Disco, and I think it probable that Hans, who was in the "Polaris," with Captain Hall, and is now at Proven, will also be willing to join me.