

tion, and furnish me with their opinion on the propriety of remaining longer in these seas.

Their answer, which I received the next day, conveyed an unanimous opinion that the ship could not continue longer at her present anchorage without incurring the risk of wintering, and suggested her removal to the entrance of the sound, where the majority of the officers thought she might remain a few days longer; but previous to our taking up our station there, it was considered advisable that the strait should be ascertained to be navigable, lest the ice should have been drifted down from the northward, and the retreat of the ship be cut off. I fully concurred in opinion with them, that if the frost continued the ship could not remain at her anchorage; but as there was a possibility of its yielding, I resolved to wait a day or two longer upon the chance, determined, if it did not give way, to quit the sound; and in the event of Beering's Strait being found clear, to return, as had been proposed, and to wait a few days off Cape Krusenstern, in the hope of meeting the party. Considering, however, the lateness of the season and the long nights, there did not appear to be much chance of the ship being able to maintain an advantageous position at the mouth of the sound; still, as I was unwilling to relinquish the smallest chance of falling in with the party, I purposed making the attempt. In so doing, however, it was necessary to insure our departure by the 23d instant, which, considering our distance from any new supplies, and that at that period there would be but nine weeks' provision remaining at half allowance, was as late as I thought it prudent to continue.

CHAP  
XII.Oct.  
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