

provisions and a boat might also be advantageously left at one or more of these points, to serve either for exploring parties or to aid in the event of an abandonment of the ships. Timely endeavours should be made to secure anchorage suitable for winter quarters, and every precaution during that rigorous season which your former experience, as well as that of other arctic voyagers, may suggest, is taken for the health and comfort of the officers and crew. Ample supplies have accordingly been furnished to the expedition; and you have been furnished with a memorandum from the Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy on the subject.

8. The general design of the expedition should be, that while both ships would share as far as possible in the objects of discovery and exploration, one must be so placed that she would not only serve for the crew of the other to fall back upon, but also, that the united crews could, without doubt, escape from her to the relief ship at the entrance of Smith Sound, by means of their sledges and boats over the ice. Consequently, the second ship must not be carried northward of the 82nd parallel; such a position would secure this most important object, and also afford every prospect of exploration into very high latitudes.

9. The eastern or the western shore may be selected for her winter quarters according to circumstances; the advantages of the former are, that animal life has been found to exist there throughout the winter, and that the ship would be favourably placed for exploring the northern coast of Greenland, or adjacent land, in the spring of 1876; on the other hand, if the land is found to be more continuous on the western side, it may afford a counterbalancing advantage in the greater facility and security of communication between the ships, and their co-operation in subsequent operations; this point must, therefore, be left to your judgment to decide; if you should select the western shore, then you should be careful in passing, or subsequently, to place a record on the eastern side of the probable or absolute position of the second ship; and in the absence of any conspicuous cairn, a ship or party visiting the bay wintered in by the "Polaris," in about 81° 35' north, would naturally seek the position of Hall's grave, where, and at 20 feet due north of it, records would be expected to be found.

10. The Captain of the second ship, wherever placed, would follow such instructions as he will have received on parting company, or subsequently, from yourself.

11. It should be a matter for consideration, whether, before parting, you would leave a depôt of some six months of the "Alert's" provisions with your consort, so as to be available for your own crew should they have to retreat, but time and circumstances must govern your decision on this point.

12. Having assured yourself of the safety of your consort, and increased your own crew by such portion of her crew as you may deem necessary to enable you to accomplish a sledging attempt to reach the pole (this being the main feature of the expedition) and also the exploration of your share of the coast line extending northwards, you should, as leader of the expedition, then push on northward, and explore by ship as much of the unknown area as the season and the state of the ice would permit. But it is not contemplated that the two ships should winter at a greater distance apart than about 200 miles; and if you advance with your ship beyond that point in 1875, you should use every endeavour to return within the 200 miles distance; or the case may arise in which it may be even wise to rejoin your consort and unite the forces of both ships for exploration in the spring and summer of 1876.

13. Should the advance ship, after leaving her consort, carry continuous, or nearly continuous land up to a high northern latitude, you should avail yourself of opportunities to land small depôts of provisions at intervals, with cairns and records as already described; and also to deposit at the most northern station a depôt of provisions and a boat for your spring travelling parties.

14. Your own crew having been increased as above referred to, by such portions of the crew of your consort as you may deem necessary, it is expected that you will have at least six strong sledge parties and four dog sledges, with which to commence further exploration in early spring. All these parties should be employed in the first instance to push out the North Pole party (which should be provided with at least one boat) and upon return from this work, some weeks later, the parties for the exploration of the coast lines should be sent out.

15. It must not, however, be lost sight of that, in the absence of continuous land, sledge travelling has never yet been found practicable over any considerable extent of unenclosed frozen sea, although conditions may be found to exist which would enable parties to travel for limited distances by sledge and boat operations combined, and for this purpose the best boats and sledges that can be devised have been supplied.