

III.
Expedition to
Behring's Straits.

having had for six days abundance of fish without vegetables. To the north, in Kotzebue Sound, we got nothing but berries, of which they had as many as they had time to pick. At Petropauloski, the second time, they had four days excellent beef and vegetables, an abundance of fish, and an unlimited supply of lime juice.

No men could have been better clothed, or less exposed; our main deck was always dry and warm, and the strictest attention paid to airing their bedding.

Our voyage from Panama to this port has occupied 199 days, 10 of which we were on fresh provisions, fish and beef, and 50 of the days preserved meats and rice were issued. My impression, until this disease made its appearance, was that we might have protracted our voyage for any length of time, with the same precautions and a similar issue of such provisions; the absence of vegetables is the only reason I can assign for it, unless the men may have been predisposed to it from the debilitating effects of their long service in the hot and moist climate of Chaso.

I have been thus lengthy in my description of the appearance of this disease, and of the precautions I have taken to avoid it, as preserved meats have now become an article of issue to the ships' companies of vessels of the service; which, with rice, does not appear to be so conducive to the health of the men as with the potato, ordered to be issued by their Lordships.

The general health of my crew is good; and with the assistance of a double allowance of vegetables here, which I have caused to be issued (and of which I trust their Lordships will approve), with a run on shore, all traces will be soon eradicated, and have, by the surgeon's report of this morning, already begun to disappear.

I hope to sail from this on the 1st December for Panama and its vicinity, to prosecute my surveying duties. At Panama I hope to receive their Lordships' instructions for my proceedings in the ensuing year, with respect to the "Plover."

I have much pleasure, sir, in being able to bear testimony to the zeal of my officers, and the meritorious conduct of my crew during my voyage.

In conclusion, sir, may I beg that whenever their Lordships may be pleased to order my return they will grant me permission to do so by the western route, touching at Hong Kong, Labuan, and any other interesting place pointed out by the Hydrographer.

I learned on my arrival at this anchorage that Her Majesty's surveying vessel "Pandora," under my directions, had touched here on her way to resume her surveying duties about Panama, and sailed on Friday the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Kellett*,
Captain.

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London.

— No. 8. —

Sir,

"Asia," at Callao, 10 July 1848.

I BEG you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the "Plover" arrived at this port on the 4th instant, from Plymouth and the Falkland Islands; and that having completed her stores, water, and provisions, without loss of time, she sailed on the morning of the 8th direct towards Behring's Straits, in execution of their Lordships' orders to Commander Moore.

On the receipt of your letter of the 12th May, No. 59, I communicated to Commander Moore the appointment of Lieutenant Pullen to the "Plover," and that this officer had reported to me his arrival at Panama on the 24th June, where he waited instructions; and in reply, Commander Moore addressed to me the letter of which I enclose a copy.

I have every reason to believe, from the circumstances stated in that letter, and from a knowledge of the prevailing calms at Panama, that very serious delay would have been occasioned to the particular service on which the "Plover" is employed had she been required to touch at Panama for Lieutenant Pullen; and I have therefore complied with the request that Lieutenant W. A. R. Lee

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