

Joint Opinion of
Officers, &c.

the "Investigator" or her boats, and then to take such measures for unloading the vessel as may be directed by Captain Bird.

12. That if it should happen that the "Investigator" is not met with, nor any of her boats (which however may be confidently expected, from the tenor of the Admiralty instructions to Sir James Ross), then the store ship to proceed in good time to land the provisions, &c. if possible at Whaler Point, Port Leopold, this being a rendezvous specially appointed by Sir James Ross in his instructions to Captain Bird, but should that point (as is not unlikely) prove inaccessible to the ship on account of ice, then a notice to be left there, as well as at several points on the south coast of Lancaster Sound named by Sir James Ross, containing a summary of the Admiralty instructions now sent out, and giving precise information where the provisions, &c. are landed.

13. That imperative instructions should be given to Sir James Ross for a strict search in Wellington Channel and its neighbourhood, since it has been ascertained that Sir John Franklin attached very great importance to that opening, in case of his failing to push on to the southward and westward.

14. The attention of Sir James Ross should likewise be drawn to Regent's Inlet, as Sir John Franklin might possibly return by that route, and that very conspicuous notices be posted in that neighbourhood, and especially about Cape York.

15. That it is desirable that the store ship be employed in assisting in the search during whatever portion of the season may remain after the delivery of her provisions, &c., and in such manner as Captain Bird or (as the case may be) her commander may deem fit, consistently with the securing of her return to England before the ensuing winter.

16. That should Captain Bird deem it expedient, any of the officers and men belonging to the store ship, who are volunteers for the service, may be exchanged for any sick or disabled individuals whom it may be desirable to send back to England.

17. That in addition to the foregoing precautions, it will be desirable to send out by a certain number of the whaling ships, (selecting the most desirable,) copies of the new instructions to Captain Bird, including those given to the officer commanding the store ship, and offering some inducement to the masters of the whaling ships to deposit these communications at certain points, to be hereafter decided upon, especially those which we know to have been selected by Sir James Ross. It may be well to print these instructions, and to enclose them in copper cylinders ready for depositing as above suggested.

18. That it will be necessary to go into many important details in addition to the above, but that the points herein alluded to, appear to be the most obvious and important, and requiring immediate attention.

(signed) *F. Beaufort.*
