

No. 1.
Information re-
lating to the United
States Expedition.

commit, any the least act of hostility against the enemy, of whatever nation he may be.

Notwithstanding the directions in which you have been recommended to carry your examinations, you may, on arriving out upon the field of operation, find that by departing from them, your search would probably be more effectual.

The department has every confidence in your judgment, and relies implicitly on your discretion; and should it appear during the voyage that by directing your attention to points not named in this letter, traces of the absent expedition would probably be found, you will not fail to examine such points; but you will on no account uselessly hazard the safety of the vessels under your command, or unnecessarily expose to danger the officers and men committed to your charge.

Unless circumstances should favour you, by enabling you to penetrate (before the young ice begins to make in the fall) far into the unexplored regions, or to discover recent traces of the missing ships and their gallant crews; or unless you should gain a position from which you could commence operations in the season of 1851 with decided advantage, you will endeavour not to be caught in the ice during the ensuing winter, but after having completed your examinations for the season, make your escape, and return to New York in the fall.

You are especially enjoined not to spend, if it can be avoided, more than one winter in the Arctic regions.

Wishing you and your gallant companions all success in your noble enterprise, and with the trust in God that He will take you and them into his holy keeping,

I am, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Ballard Preston.*

To Edwin J. de Haven, Lieutenant,
Commanding the American Arctic Expedition,
&c. &c. &c., New York.

— No. 2. —

No. 2.
Letter from H. U.
Addington, Esq. to
the Secretary of
the Admiralty.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. U. Addington*, Esq. to the Secretary of the Admiralty, forwarding Naval Intelligence from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the *Sandwich Islands*.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 7 September 1850.

* Extracts given.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the *copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-general at Woahoo, containing naval intelligence.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. U. Addington.*

Enclosure to No. 2.

EXTRACTS of a LETTER from Mr. Consul-General *Miller*, dated Woahoo, 30 April 1850.

CAPTAIN ROYS, to whom I referred in my despatch, No. 20, of the 11th of October 1848, and in my private letter to you of the 12th of the same month, arrived at this port four days ago from the United States, *via* San Francisco, in command of the whaling ship "*Sheffield*," of 600 tons burthen, remarkably well manned and found, belonging to New York, and purposes in a week to continue on his course to the Arctic sea.

He assures me that he is fully determined to go as far north as the ice will permit, and to use his utmost endeavours to obtain tidings of Sir John Franklin and his party.

Captain Roys is still of opinion that a north-west passage may be found, and that the chances of success in finding one are much greater by an easterly than by a westerly course, in consequence of the prevailing westerly winds and north-east current. He thinks, also, that land exists in about 70° due north of Behring's Straits,