

that the "Plover" and "Rattlesnake" are now detained solely on account of and to afford assistance to Captain Collinson and the crew of the "Enterprise." If you feel certain that the crew of that ship is safe, you are hereby directed to discontinue your present service and to return to Valparaiso. If you should, however, after full deliberation, deem it to be essentially necessary to extend the services of the "Plover" to another winter, it is their Lordships' directions, that you should exchange any of your officers or men, re-victual the ship, and again proceed to Point Barrow, provided the ship and your crew are efficient; but so soon as the season of 1855 will admit, that you proceed to Grantley Harbour, and from thence to San Francisco and Valparaiso, for further orders. You are distinctly to understand that it is not their Lordships' intention to send up a ship from the Pacific station to communicate with Grantley Harbour in 1855, and you are therefore positively to leave Behring Strait in that year, as directed.

In case of your not being able to place the "Plover" in the harbour at Point Barrow, or in any other safe position north of Grantley Harbour, you may return to that port (Grantley Harbour), and having deposited all spare provisions and stores with Her Majesty's ship "Rattlesnake," you may at once proceed to Valparaiso as before directed, as there does not exist any necessity for retaining two ships at that port, Commander Trollope having been directed to continue there until the summer of 1855, as per copy of the enclosed Orders.

In the event of any accident having occurred to the "Plover," rendering her unseaworthy, or of her having been, on survey, found unfit for further service, my Lords desire that the ship be placed in some safe position as a depôt, to afford shelter to any travelling or other party, and that you proceed, with the officers and crew, on board Her Majesty's ship "Rattlesnake," or whatever ship which may have been sent from Valparaiso, and consider yourself as a passenger in that ship.

In the event of England being at any time involved in hostilities with any other power during your employment on the above service, you are clearly to understand that you are not to commit any hostile act whatever, the ship under your command being fitted out for the sole purpose of aiding those engaged in scientific discoveries, and it being the established practice of all civilised nations to consider vessels so employed as exempt from the operations of war.

I am, &c.

To Commander Maguire,  
Her Majesty's Sloop "Plover."

*W. A. B. Hamilton.*

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