

2 ORDERS UNDER WHICH THE EXPEDITION HAS PROCEEDED

passage between the land and the main body of the ice, this eastern vessel is to detach her steam-launch to Lancaster Sound, in order to meet the whale ships which usually visit the western side of Baffin Bay about that time, and by which we purpose to send out further instructions and communications to you, as well as to receive in return an account of your proceedings.

The "Enterprize" in the meantime will press forward to the westward, and endeavour to reach Winter Harbour in Melville Island, or perhaps, if circumstances should in your judgment render it advisable, to push onward to Banks' Land; but in either case a distinct statement of the measures you are going to adopt, as well as of your future intentions, should be deposited in some spot previously communicated to Captain Bird. From this western station you will be able to spread some active parties, and to make some short and useful excursions before the season altogether closes, and still more effective ones in the ensuing spring. One party should then pursue the coast in whatever direction it may seem likely to have been followed by Sir John Franklin, and thus determine the general shape of the western face of Banks' Land. It is then to proceed direct to Cape Bathurst or to Cape Parry on the main land, at each of which places we have directed Sir J. Richardson to leave provisions for its use; that party will then advance to Fort Good Hope, where they will find directions for continuing their progress up the M'Kenzie River, so as to return to England by the usual route of traders.

Another party will explore the eastern coast of Banks' Land, and from thence make at once for Cape Krusenstern, where, or at Cape Hearne, a *caché* of Pemmican will be placed for Sir John Richardson.

They should communicate immediately with him, according to the agreement which he and you have made, and, placing themselves under his orders, they will assist him in examining the shores of Victoria and Wollaston's Islands, and finally return with him to England, by whatever route he may deem advisable. Unable to foresee the variety of circumstances in which you may be placed, or the difficulties with which you may have to contend, and fully relying on the skilfulness of your measures, as well as by the zeal with which you and those under your command will be animated, we direct you to consider the foregoing orders as the general outline only of our desires, and not as intended too rigidly to control your proceedings, especially whenever, after due deliberation, you have become satisfied that the end we have in view may be more certainly accomplished by the substitution of some other course of operations; and if Providence should not be pleased to crown your efforts with success, we leave it to your own judgment when and from whence to return to England, as soon as you are convinced that every means within your reach have been exhausted.

In case of any irreparable accident happening to the "Enterprize," you are hereby authorized to take the command of the "Investigator," and to make such arrangements for the officers and crews as may be most consonant to the rules of the service, and most conducive to the objects of the expedition.

If you should happily succeed in meeting with the "Erebus" afloat, and Sir John Franklin's pendant be flying, you will of course place yourself under his orders; but if you should find that ship blocked up with ice, or otherwise incapable of proceeding, you are hereby authorized and directed to retain the command of the expedition, and adopt all such measures as may be requisite for the safe removal of her crew, or that of the "Terror."

In the event of Great Britain being involved in hostilities with any foreign power during your absence, you are to abstain from the smallest act of aggression towards any vessel belonging to such nation, it being the practice of all civilized countries to consider vessels engaged on service of this kind as exempt from the rules and operations of war. Both vessels under your orders have been furnished with abundance of stores, and with more than a sufficiency of every thing that can in anywise contribute to the welfare of their crews; and we especially direct you to consider their safety, health and comfort as predominant in every operation that you undertake. Each of them has likewise been supplied with numerous instruments for the purpose of making geographic, hydrographic, magnetic and atmospheric observations in those northern and rarely visited regions of the globe; and we annex hereto a copy of the instructions given to Sir J. Franklin, in order that you may pursue a similar course; and though we estimate any such observations as of inferior importance to the one leading object of