

garrison of Belcheretsk; saying they knew that brandy was extremely scarce in that country, the soldiers on shore having offered four roubles a bottle for it. We could not but admire this extraordinary sacrifice, knowing how much the sailors felt, when abridged or deprived of their grog. Indeed, they never had that article withheld from them, but in winter weather, that they might enjoy a greater proportion when it was most necessary; but this generous proposal would deprive them of it, even in the inclement season we had naturally to expect in our northern expedition. The officers, however, would not permit them to suffer by their generosity, and substituted in the room of the small quantity of brandy, which the Major consented to accept, an equal quantity of rum. A dozen or two of Cape wine for Madame Behm, and some other trifling presents which we were enabled to make, were accepted with great politeness. The tobacco was distributed the next morning among the crews of both vessels; every man that chewed or smoked tobacco being allowed three pounds; and the others only one.

It has been observed that the Major had resigned the command of Kamtschatka, and was speedily to repair to Petersburg; and he now expressed his willingness to convey any dispatches we might choose to commit to his care. Such an opportunity was not to be neglected; and Captain Clerke requested him to take the charge of some papers relative to our voyage, to the British Ambassador at the Russian court. At first we intended to transmit only a concise journal of our proceedings; but, after mature consideration, Captain Clerke was of opinion,