

The College of Surgeons sent bottles of spirits for the preservation of specimens, and the Horticultural Society enhanced our extra stores with a box of seeds properly prepared for keeping.

The seamen were furnished with two suits of clothes gratis, and were allowed the further privilege of having six months' wages in advance.

In the equipment of all the expeditions of this nature it has been the good fortune of the officers engaged in them to meet with the utmost courtesy and attention to their wishes from the departments which have the power so materially to contribute to their comfort; and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to Sir G. Cockburn and the other Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to Sir Thomas Byam Martin, and the Commissioners of the Navy and Victualling Boards, for the readiness with which they at all times complied with my requests.

Being in every respect ready, on the 19th May I received the following instructions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty:—

“By the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c. &c.

“Whereas it is our intention that his majesty's sloop Blossom, under your command, should be at Beering's Strait in the Autumn of 1826, and, contingently, in that of 1827, for the purpose of affording such assistance as may be required, either by Captain Parry or Captain Franklin, should one or both of those officers make their appearance in that neighbourhood. You are hereby required and directed to put to sea in the said sloop, so soon as in