

III.
Expedition to
Behring's Straits.

I find Kamschatka a most delightful climate (in August); abundance of wood, water, and fish, with plenty of space for the men to walk about; the weather cold enough to induce them to do so, and no chance of getting grog.

You will see by the Table I enclose you, showing my track, and the winds and weather I experienced, how unfortunate I have been, and still more so now; not finding the "Plover" here, I incur some risk of not meeting her at all, by leaving this place before her arrival; but I almost despair of her getting here this season, and I may do some good in getting north.

Unlike my former voyage my crew have been most healthy, although we had such continued rains in getting away from the coast, frequently a week together without a man on the list. When the "Sampson" cast us off I was very ill, and hardly knew what I wrote to you; I was under the effect of large doses of opium at the time; I am now greatly recovered, but still suffer greatly from dyspepsia. I shall now only get back in time to prepare for my next voyage.

It is a mere chance if this reaches you; I shall send it to Oahu, but when it is likely to get away from there I cannot say.

The Russians here have been kind to an excess; the governor gave me a letter to Norton Sound, to ensure all my wants there; nevertheless, my not having been able to reach Sitka has been a great loss to me, as the officer in command there is well acquainted with this sea, and has been a great deal employed in its examination.

I hope the remainder of this voyage, which I expected to have found very interesting, may terminate more successfully than, from present appearances, I am led to think it will.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Kellett*,
Captain.

To Rear-Admiral Francis Beaufort,
Hydrographer.

— No. 7. —

Her Majesty's Ship "Herald," at Mazatlan,
25 November 1848.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I arrived here on the 24th instant, from Petropauloski, having left that port on the 21st October last, without having seen or been able to hear any tidings of Her Majesty's ship "Plover."

In my letter from Petropauloski, dated 14th August, I gave you a detailed account of my proceedings, from leaving Panama up to the time of my arrival at the above port; but fearing that you may not have received that despatch, I have the honour to transmit a duplicate, and to send you a further account of my proceedings, a continuation of my voyage, in prosecution of their Lordships' orders.

Leaving Petropauloski on the 16th of August, I sailed direct to the Russian station of Michaelouski, in Norton Sound, which place I reached on the 2d of September, but was unable to communicate for two days, in consequence of the heavy weather and the excessively exposed position of the settlement for a ship of this draught.

Here I was fortunate enough to obtain a most excellent interpreter, but they had no baidars; however, these could have been easily procured to the north; if not, the two whale boats sent out in Her Majesty's ship "Asia," I had very well fitted for the purpose.

It took me three days to get clear of this enormous gulf, in consequence of the prevalence of westerly winds, and the almost constant indraught.

In our run from this to the straits, we were enveloped in the most dense fog I have ever seen, but with light winds, and did not arrive off Chamisso Island, in Kotzebue Sound, until sunset of the 14th September.

With the exception of four natives on Chamisso Island, with whom I communicated on the evening of our arrival, and who, being frightened, gave to our leading questions all their answers in the affirmative, we could not find a native in the Sound within reach of our boats; they had all left for their winter quarters. I weighed, therefore, and went to the northward as far as Cape Krusenstern to endeavour to find them, but they had left this and Hotham's Inlet also.

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