

If there is no choice of position, these parties should be sent in the direction of the probable lines of spring exploration with orders to caché all provisions unexpended.

The orders as to the expenditure of game by the hunting parties must depend upon the probable quantity obtainable; if that is small, everything must be saved for the sick, otherwise a reasonable quantity should be allowed to be used at the time.

The dogs should at once be put on regular rations.

If unable to obtain food for them, and we are likely to remain for a second winter, only the eight strongest are to be fed from the ship's stores.

During the autumn of 1875 or early in the following spring a party is to be sent from the "Discovery" to Hall's Rest, to take an inventory of the stores and provisions left there, and to ascertain how far they are available for use.

In order to continue the exploration of the coast of Greenland to the northward of Cape Stanton, it is important that a depôt should be established beyond that Cape. After passing it, the widening of the channel will ensure good ice for travelling.

In consequence of the water not freezing until late in the season, and the ice melting early in Robeson Channel, it is probable that this work can only be performed either by means of a boat and sledge combined, or by crossing the land to the eastward of Polaris Bay with a cart.

If the depôt left at Hall's Rest is intact a party might remain there and do good service until late in September, up to which time there will be sufficient light.

During the spring of 1876 a party from the "Discovery" is to communicate with the established post at the entrance of Smith's Sound; by this party you are to forward a report of the proceedings of the expedition, addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

The officers likely to be employed on this duty should be also employed to land the travelling depôts on the passage north.

In the event of the "Alert" advancing further north than the "Discovery" during the present summer, a party from the latter ship is to accompany the "Alert," on board of which ship they will be provisioned.

They will probably return to their own ship during the autumn, but should they not arrive, there need be no anxiety about them, as I shall not despatch them without taking every precaution for their safety.

If the "Discovery's" sledge parties are to advance to the northward from the "Alert," in the spring of 1876, I shall take care to send orders to that effect, previous to the 1st April of that year, on which date every one is to be on board ready for starting.

Should you not hear from me previous to that date, you will know that the "Alert" has succeeded in gaining so advanced a position as to be too distant for your crew to join in the line of exploration towards the north.

You will then start one sledge complete in every way with orders to repair to a rendezvous on the west shore of the Lincoln Sea, as near as possible to latitude 84° N., if the land north of that position continues to trend to the northward he is to advance as near as possible to latitude 85° north.

At his most advanced position he is to remain at least until the 13th of May, and as much later as his provisions, the season, and the state of the ice will allow him.

A party from the "Alert" will have similar orders to the above.

Should the two parties not meet, and you have not previously received any news of the "Alert," the same rendezvous is to be visited at the same date in 1877.

During the spring of 1877 you are to keep up communication with an established post at the entrance of Smith's Sound.

I must leave it to your judgment whether or not to despatch a party to the southward in the autumn of 1876, on the chance of finding despatches brought from England during the previous summer.

If that summer be an open one, a vessel coming from the southward might reach Cape Sabine or even Cape Prescott.

It would probably be easy work to get south in a boat, but difficult to return north while the young ice was forming.

I need scarcely remind you that it is impossible to leave too many notices of your movements, intentions, and of any alterations in the latter.

The greater number of records deposited in conspicuous positions, the greater certainty there is that two parties will not explore the same coast.

All books, &c. originally belonging to the American Government Expedition under Captain Hall which may be recovered from the Esquimaux, or otherwise, are to be considered Government property; these are to be sealed up by proper officers, and taken charge of.