

all other requisites for the success of the expedition, as well as the health and comfort of its members, will, we doubt not, meet the approbation of Congress and be highly appreciated by all persons interested in Arctic explorations.

From the foregoing statement it must be evident that the provisions for exploration and scientific research in this case are as ample as those which have ever been made for any other Arctic expedition, and should the results not be commensurate with the anticipations in regard to them, the fact cannot be attributed to a want of interest in the enterprise or to inadequacy of the means which have been afforded.

We have, however, full confidence, not only in the ability of Captain Hall and his naval associates to make important additions to the knowledge of the geography of the polar region, but also in his interest in science and his determination to do all in his power to assist and facilitate the scientific operations.

Appended to this letter is the series of instructions prepared by the committee of the Academy, viz: the instructions on astronomy, by Professor Newcomb; on magnetism, tides, &c., by Professor J. E. Hilgard; on meteorology, by Professor Henry; on natural history, by Professor S. F. Baird; on geology, by Professor Meek; and on glaciers, by Professor Agassiz.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HENRY.

President of the National Academy of Sciences.

Hon. GEORGE M. ROBESON,

Secretary of the Navy.

INSTRUCTIONS.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS IN REGARD TO THE MODE OF KEEP- ING RECORDS.

Records of observations.—It is of the first importance that in all instrumental observations the fullest record be made, and that the original notes be preserved carefully.

In all cases the actual instrumental readings must be recorded, and if any corrections are to be applied, the reason for these corrections must also be recorded. For instance, it is not sufficient to state the index error of a sextant; the manner of ascer-

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