

their Lordships as conveyed to you in their letter of 15th December last. A copy of this letter is enclosed.

6. It only remains for their Lordships to convey to you their best wishes for the success of the voyage which you have undertaken with so much zeal in the interest of the public service, and they trust that your efforts to obtain information of the Polar ships may prove successful, a result which will be satisfactory not only to their Lordships but to the numerous relations and friends of the officers and men of the Expedition, and to the public at large.

I am, &c.

ROBERT HALL.

Allen Young, Esq.
&c. &c.

P.S.—The Hydrographer to the Admiralty has been directed to supply you with all the requisite charts and hydrographical information.

No. 19.

Mr. ALLEN YOUNG to the SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY.

Arctic Yacht "Pandora," R.Y.S.,
Cowes, May 29th 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of their Lordships' Memorandum of the 16th instant, together with copies of the instructions furnished to Captain Nares and other documents bearing on the subject of communication with the depôts of the Arctic Expedition, at the entrance of Smith Sound during this summer, a service which I have had the honour to accept at their Lordships' invitation.

I have read and given my careful consideration to all these documents, and as their Lordships have not laid down the decided line of action they desire me to follow, I conclude that they leave it to my own judgment to carry out, so far as circumstances will admit, their general views consequent on Captain Nares' communications.

I beg you will acquaint their Lordships, that while I gratefully accept and appreciate this mark of their confidence, I feel that it is proper, and that they will expect, that I should lay before them a statement of my own views on the service I am about to undertake, and of the course I propose to follow.

Captain Nares states in his communication from Disco that his second captain, Stephenson, will be directed to communicate in the spring of this year with a depôt at or near the entrance to Smith Sound, and perhaps again in the *autumn*.

My duty then will be to land despatches and letters at this depôt and to bring away any that I may find deposited there.

My opinion is that if the expedition reached any very considerable distance north in the summer of 1875, say as far as Hall's wintering place, then no attempt would be made to communicate with the depôt at the entrance of Smith Sound during the spring of this year, and in that event I should find no-later letters than those which were probably deposited in August 1875, on the way north, and only a few days later intelligence than that which I brought to England from the Carey Islands on my return in October last year.

Such a result at this, although it is quite possible to be all that I might be able to accomplish, would convey but little additional information to their lordships and would probably not be very satisfactory to the public.

As regards the possible communications from the Expedition in the autumn their Lordships are aware that autumn travelling can only be undertaken after the summer navigation has closed and the sea is again frozen over, and then only to a limited extent.

To receive such communication I should have to go into winter quarters at the end of this summer and I should then be in no better position as regards bringing despatches to England than the Government ship which it is intended to despatch in 1877 (should the Expedition not return in the summer of this year).

It is possible, however, that Captain Nares or his second Captain Stephenson may despatch a boat expedition to the depôt in the month of July this year, and if so it is of course possible that I may communicate with it. With this view I should feel it incumbent on me to remain at the entrances of Smith's Sound until the navigable season is well advanced, and I should hope during this detention to gain such information in