

14. You are aware of the deposit of stores and provisions at Port Leopold, and of the steam launch left there by Sir James Ross; you are at liberty to employ that vessel in any way that her services may be made available; but with reference to the store of provisions at Port Leopold, and also those for 100 men, which were landed by Mr. Saunders on an island in Navy Board Inlet, it is our directions, that such provisions and stores shall on no account be touched by any of the vessels under your orders, unless compelled to do so by absolute necessity.

15. We have furnished you with copies of these instructions, which you are to deliver to the captain and officers in command of vessels under your orders. And we deem it necessary that you should be directed to communicate freely and unreservedly with your second in command, and the officers in charge of the other ships, on all points connected with the expedition, keeping them acquainted with your views and intentions, that, in case of an accident happening to yourself, or a separation of the ships, these officers may be fully aware of the course of proceedings intended to be adopted by you, and when the ships are separated from you for the purpose of carrying out our orders, the same unreserved intercourse and communication is to be maintained between the officers in command of the respective ships.

16. You are, no doubt, aware of the "Prince Albert," private vessel, being engaged in a like search in the Arctic Seas; you are to afford that vessel every aid and assistance, in the event of falling in with her, but you are in no way to interfere with her orders or take her under your charge.

17. The various logs and private journals, with drawings, plans, &c., are to be sent to this office, on the return of the expedition. And you are to be careful that from the date of your parting company with the ships sent to assist in towing you, your own letters to our secretary, together with those of the officers addressing you, are duly numbered as well as dated; and you are invariably, should any opportunity offer, to leave letters for us at such places as Cape Warrender, Ponds Bay, &c. provided no delay be incurred thereby.

18. Your ships have been fully equipped for the service they are going upon, and it has been our desire that you should be provided with every means and resource that might be made available. We have an entire reliance on the best use and application of those means on your part, and we have equal confidence in the care to be exercised by you for those employed under your orders; but there is one object which in the exercise of that care will naturally engage your constant attention, and that is, the safe return of your party to this country.

19. We are sensible, however, that notwithstanding a wish to keep this part of your duty prominently in mind, yet, that an ardent desire to accomplish the object of your mission, added to a generous sympathy for your missing countrymen, may prevail in some degree to carry you beyond the limits of a cautious prudence.

20. You are, therefore, distinctly to understand our directions to be, that the several ships under your orders shall each be on its way home, and to the eastward of Barrow Strait, whenever their stock of provisions shall have been reduced to twelve months' full allowance; and commending you, and those employed under you, to the providence of God, we trust that success may crown your efforts, and that you may be the means of affording succour to those of our countrymen whose absence we have so long deplored.

Given under our hands this 16th day of April 1852.

To Sir Edward Belcher, C. B.,
Captain of Her Majesty's Ship Assistance,
at Greenhithe.

Northumberland.
Hyde Parker.
Phipps Hornby.
Thos. Herbert.
Alex. Milne.

By command of their Lordships,

W. A. B. Hamilton.