

No. 4.

CAPTAIN NARES to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

H.M.S "Alert," Bantry Bay,

2nd June 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that H.M.S. "Alert" and "Discovery" arrived at this anchorage yesterday afternoon.

2. This morning the "Valorous" was in sight outside, and I am now getting under weigh to join her.

3. There is a fine breeze from the south-east, with a high stationary barometer.

4. Only five tons of extra coal have been expended since leaving Portsmouth, the ships are therefore complete.

5. All is well on board both ships.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. S. NARES, Captain.

No. 5.

(CONTEMPLATED PROCEEDINGS OF ARCTIC EXPEDITION.)

In the event of the "Alert" proceeding further north than the "Discovery" these will be the "Discovery's" orders.

(Signed) G. S. NARES.

Memo.

H.M.S. "Alert" at Disco,

9th July 1875.

I WISH the two ships of the Expedition to advance to the northward in company, as far as about latitude 82° N.

Should we be so fortunate as to gain that locality, I intend to fix the "Discovery" in winter quarters as early as possible, and then to advance further to the northward in the "Alert."

Should the "Alert" be able to proceed she is to be looked upon as an advanced depôt ship, from which the combined forces of the two ships are to start in the exploring journeys towards the North.

In the event of the "Alert" advancing beyond the reach of the men from the "Discovery," except at too great an expense of time, the crew of the latter ship is to be employed as you think best, with a view to the determination of the continuity of the coast of Greenland.

As you advance to the northward I shall endeavour to establish the A. and B. depôts of 3,600 rations each * * * * *

These depôts are already prepared, they will be carried one on the upper deck of each ship, and will be available, in case of accident, in Melville Bay or elsewhere. A boat will also be kept at each of these positions.

Travelling depôts of 240 rations each will be landed, if possible * * * * *
* * * * *, and 480 rations each, at suitable positions beyond the "Discovery's" winter quarters.

As it is of vital importance that depôts of provisions should not be tampered with, no notice concerning their positions is to be included in the official information left in or buried 20 feet magnetic north of any established cairn. If it is necessary to leave a notice at all it is to be buried * * * * *; also any information that it may be advisable for a time to keep secret is to be deposited in the same position.

It is possible that the crew of the "Alert" may have to retire on a large depôt north of Smith's Sound, therefore, immediately the "Discovery" is secured in winter quarters, a depôt of 10,000 rations with a supply of coal is to be established on shore.

In addition to the formation of this depôt, immediate attention is to be directed to throwing out hunting parties, both to the shore and on the ice. Without fresh provisions it is quite impossible to feed the dogs, therefore, the duties of pushing forward provisions for spring travelling, and preparing the ship for the winter, must be put off if either interferes with the formation of shooting parties.