

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

U. S. S. "THETIS,"

SITKA, ALASKA, *November 18, 1889.*

SIR:—In obedience to your verbal order to report on the subject of "Ice," as it is found in Bering sea and the Arctic ocean in the vicinity of Bering strait, and especially with regard to its movements under the influences of the prevailing currents and winds, I have the honor to submit the following report.

In making this report, I have collected data from the following sources: The captains of five steam whalers and eleven sailing vessels; the reports of the "Cruises of the *Corwin*," in 1881 and 1885; "Little Joe" Tuckfield, of the Mackenzie river; Mr. Leavitt, of the Cape Smyth whaling station; Mr. Wolfe, of the Cape Sabine coaling station; Mr. J. W. Kelly, of the Cape Sabine and Point Hope stations; F. Birk (seaman), of the U. S. S. *Rodgers*; Mr. Grey, of the Pribyloff islands; Mr. R. Neumann, of St. Michaels and Ounalaska; and the experiences of the U. S. S. *Thetis* during the summers of 1888 and 1889.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD SIMPSON,

Ensign, U. S. Navy.

To Lieutenant Commander CHAS. H. STOCKTON, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. S. *Thetis*.