

XIV.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
At Sea, September 14th, 1838.

As it appears to me that the bounty recently directed by the Fourth Auditor, to be checked against the marines now attached to the Exploring Expedition, was given to them by the authority of the Navy Department, through Commodore Jones, (as appears by his General Order, No. 1,) not as recruits, but in consideration of their obligating themselves to serve during the cruise of the Expedition, without reference to their term of service; I deem it, therefore, proper and just to order the Pursers of the Exploring Expedition not to check the bounty against the marines of the squadron under my command.

(Signed) CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

To Messrs. R. R. WALDRON and WM. SPIEDEN,
Pursers, U. S. N.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
At Sea, September 14th, 1838.

SIR,—

It was with much surprise I learnt, a few days after sailing from Hampton Roads, that the pursers of the Exploring Expedition had received instructions from the Fourth Auditor to check the marines now in the Exploring Expedition with the bounty paid them in November, 1837, by order of Commodore Jones.

I flattered myself that I had, on sailing, overcome all the obstacles that had occurred, and I was not a little excited on finding that a new apple of discord had been thrown into the squadron, and particularly that part of it so valuable and necessary as the marines.

I presume, however, this has been done without a knowledge of the mischief it might produce in the efficiency and progress of the Expedition, if carried into effect.

As it appears that some of the marines who received this bounty had been in the service a long time, and none of them were recruits, and with a view of preventing any mischievous effects upon those now in the Expedition, I have issued an order to the pursers not to check the bounty referred to; a copy of which is herewith enclosed, marked No. 1; also a letter from Sergeant Stearns, in relation to the subject, marked No. 2; I take leave also to enclose a copy of the General Order issued by Commodore Jones to the Exploring Expedition in October, 1837,