

in the event of any loss of the latter, much detention would result to the after operations of the Expedition.

It is hoped that Lieutenant Alden will be enabled, prior to this duty being undertaken, to finish the chart of the Rio Negro.

Acting-Master North will assist Lieutenant Carr in the care and attention to the chronometers, their rate, observations, &c.

It is expected that all passed midshipmen, and midshipmen, will exert themselves in carrying out the various and important duties confided to them at this anchorage.

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition

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U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Orange Harbour, Terra del Fuego,
February 23d, 1839.

SIR,—

You will receive on board the U. S. Ship Relief, under your command, the scientific gentlemen, who have been transferred from this ship and the Peacock, to the Relief, for scientific duty during the present cruise, and you will afford them every possible facility and accommodation to enable them to make such observations and collections as may be in their power.

1st. You will proceed without delay to the Straits of Magellan, entering by the west through Brecknock Passage, Cockburn's Channel, and Magdalene Sound.

2d. Captain King's chart of the Straits of Magellan may be depended on for all requisite information; his book of directions will also give you a full knowledge of the tides, currents, anchorages, &c.; I would recommend its attentive examination.

3d. You will keep full and complete journals of all your observations as heretofore, in regard to the soundings, temperature, &c.

4th. You will on anchoring set up tide-staves, and enter all observations agreeably to our formula; and you will continue your meteorological journal hourly.

5th. Should you experience any gales or storms, you will note their progress, from the commencement to the end, with their appearance, &c.; and any occurrence of interest will be immediately noted in your journal.

6th. You will also explore and survey Useless Bay in the Straits of Magellan, and connect your observations, &c., with Captain King's