

less reluctantly, as I felt confident the season for operations in these latitudes had already passed,—the sun being already in northern declination, and little assistance to be expected from the moon and stars.

On the 25th of March I fell in with you again, sir. It had been my intention that day at noon to stand to the eastward, and, if I found the sea sufficiently clear, to pass to the southward and eastward of the island of Peter I., in quest of the western extremity of Palmer's Land, and thence to execute what should remain unexecuted of my "Instructions," with which you are well acquainted.

Fearful of an early separation from you, in the thick weather now so prevalent in these latitudes, I have hurriedly drawn up this report, which I trust will excuse its deficiency in minute details, for which I beg leave to refer you to my journal (which I shall lose no time in submitting to you), and to the log-book, and other journals of the schooner.

I cannot close, sir, without expressing my entire satisfaction with the conduct of the crew of the schooner; they have now been wet for thirty days, suffering from cold, and frequently covered with ice and snow; indeed, in my experience, I have never known men subjected to equal hardships. From such causes, from two to three of the number have generally been unfit for duty; nevertheless, the remainder have displayed an enthusiasm for the service in which they have been engaged, and have performed their duties with a cheerfulness and alacrity that, if equalled, I have never seen surpassed. I confidently trust that you will so represent their conduct to the commander-in-chief, that it may be distinguished by a public expression of his approbation.

In conclusion, sir, I must acknowledge my indebtedness to the skill and experience of Mr. Knox, and the ready attention of Mr. Hammersly, from whom I have received the most hearty co-operation.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM M. WALKER,

Commanding U. S. Schooner Flying-Fish.

WILLIAM L. HUDSON, Esq.,

Commanding U. S. Ship Peacock, and Schooner Flying-Fish.

In looking over this communication, I believe it better to state that the appearance noticed in the ice, and of which I have made mention on the third page, amounted to a deep earthy stain. I cannot pretend to account for it.