

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS IN RELATION TO THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION
OF SPECIMENS, SHELLS, ETC.

THE undersigned, commanding the Exploring Expedition, has examined the collections called for by him, and finds, with much regret and mortification, that few or none have been made.

The object of this communication is to avoid any misapprehension hereafter, in regard to the orders heretofore given by the Navy Department and myself, requiring the collection and preservation of all shells, specimens, &c.

To the country belong all our labours, and it being the earnest wish of the government, that as large and extensive collections as possible be introduced into the United States by the Exploring Expedition, it is the duty, and should be the wish of every officer, to afford all the aid in his power in effecting this object.

Any selfish ideas of accumulating for ourselves, I trust are laid aside, particularly when it is considered that the opportunity of effecting this object will be much greater by united and general collections and preservations, as all which are left, after the government are supplied, would undoubtedly be returned to those who had collected them, if desired, in preference to others.

It is believed, that with proper exertions and attention, a sufficient number can be obtained during the cruise, to supply every one who may desire it, from the general collection.

No expense or means will be spared by me on the part of the government, to place every article in the most secure state of preservation and safe keeping; this could not be done, if all specimens are retained by the persons collecting them.

1st. Hereafter, each officer will avail himself of every opportunity of making collections, on shore and afloat, and transmit them to the commander, or such person as he may designate, who will cause them to be cleaned or arranged for safe keeping, and lists will accompany them, with the name of the person who collected them.

2d. All specimens, shells, &c., (in no case exceeding one hundred,) will be required if they can be obtained.

3d. The cost of any article purchased will be refunded, should it be wanted by the government. Valuable and rare shells, seldom met with, will of course be retained by the government.

4th. The Naturalists will have every opportunity afforded them, of examining and describing any fish, shells, &c., as soon as taken.

These arrangements will, it is hoped, produce the desired co-operation, and will insure success; not only meeting the view of the