

they desired of making investigations. It was not to be supposed, from the many interests, and their inexperience in naval duties, that all could agree that the particular objects of their several departments received the proper consideration. Each would naturally look upon his own as the most important. They were not aware of my instructions, and of the duties that were enjoined upon me; and I think did not take into consideration the loss of time I had met with from various causes, and that my intentions were at times unexpectedly frustrated. Besides, it was my duty to look to the essential objects of the Expedition, which were entirely unknown to them. They are now, after the cruise has passed, I believe fully satisfied that it was not possible, without sacrificing the greater interests, to give more attention than I did to subordinate parts.

I cannot avoid bearing testimony to their perseverance, industry, zeal, and strict conformity to the rules and regulations laid down for the government of us all. The result of their labours will shortly be before the public, and will show the manner in which they have performed their duties. They messed with the ward-room officers, and received all the privileges, respect, and attention due to that rank.

In the following Narrative, it may perhaps be necessary to state, that although our time was limited to a few days at some of the places we visited, yet the number of officers and gentlemen engaged under my command, enabled me to have every thing worthy of notice examined. The result of our observations, I am satisfied, will give a faithful representation of the countries and islands, during the period of our visit.

I received every facility for obtaining information from our consuls, as well as from missionaries and American residents abroad. Some of them furnished me with interesting documents, connected with the past and present state of the countries where they reside, and procured from the different governments many valuable official papers. Indeed, the facilities met with have evinced a desire in all to further the undertaking with which I was charged.

To the Governor of New South Wales, Sir George Gipps, my acknowledgments are particularly due, for his generous liberality in ordering me to be furnished by the Colonial Secretary, E. Deas Thompson, Esq., with all the documents published, not only at the time of our visit, but since. The latter have been kindly forwarded by our consul, J. H. Williams, Esq., to whom the Expedition is also greatly indebted. From all these documents I have been enabled to draw much valuable information, which I hope will be interesting to the general reader, as well as useful to our interests abroad.