

XI.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Sydney Cove, Dec. 11th, 1839.

GENTLEMEN,—

To prevent any misunderstanding relative to the conversation with you on the 30th ultimo, I would state that it was not my intention to make any proposition to you to leave the squadron, during our cruise south, but to receive any suggestions that you might offer, after being informed of our cruise, that might be considered more advantageous to your departments than accompanying the squadron in the Antarctic cruise.

It is my intention to sail from this harbour on the 18th instant, with all the vessels of the squadron for the Antarctic Ocean.

The vessels will be ordered to call at New Zealand in the spring, and may be expected there in March or April, if they are not detained by ice.

I request that such of you as may wish orders to join the squadron at New Zealand under these circumstances, will inform me by letter.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

To the Gentlemen of the Scientific Corps.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
December 19th, 1839.

GENTLEMEN,—

Agreeably to your application, you will remain on shore, and join the squadron on the return of the Expedition, from the Antarctic Ocean, at the Bay of Islands, by the 1st of March next.

You will, of course, employ yourselves as may be most conducive to the interest of the Expedition, in New South Wales and New Zealand, and will keep a minute journal, making all possible collections, and a full report to me in writing, of your observations and duties.

Vouchers for passages and expenses on scientific excursions on public duty, will be taken when practicable for my approval.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

To MESSRS. PEALE,
RICH,
PICKERING,
HALE,
DANA,
AGATE,
DRAYTON,
Scientific Corps.