

every reason to be satisfied), perhaps some expression of opinion may be looked for on my part.

I confess then freely that I have been actuated somewhat by selfish considerations. A visit to New Zealand is a point which I have more at heart than any other in these seas, and I conceive the time allotted by no means too much to be employed between Australia, New Zealand, and the Tonga Islands. Perhaps, if I had every thing at my disposal, I should feel tempted to touch at some southern point of New Zealand, before proceeding to the Bay of Islands; but there would be danger in this, both by land and water, besides the risk of losing the main points of observation. Farther than this, I should not think of attempting. I should therefore deprecate any change of plan, which would lead to a change of destination, but of course should not expect my individual voice to weigh against the general good of the Expedition.

CHARLES PICKERING.

To CHARLES WILKES, Esq.,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Sydney Cove, Dec. 23d, 1839.

SIR,—

You will proceed to New Zealand by the first opportunity, and attend to the following duties.

- 1st. You will make hourly observations of the tides.
 - 2d. Observations of the temperature, at eight, twelve, and six; winds, weather, &c.
 - 3d. Collect all specimens possible for the scientific corps, and other departments of the Expedition.
 - 4th. Keep a journal, and note all the information you can obtain relative to New Zealand, and make a report in writing to me.
- You will take with you a tide-staff, three thermometers, watch, stationary, &c.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

MR. J. W. WALDRON,
U. S. Brig Porpoise.