

## XXI.

U. S. Ship Peacock,  
Sydney Cove, New South Wales,  
December 21st, 1839.

SIR,—

Having thoroughly examined this ship at different times, and particularly at this place, I would respectfully submit the following report of her condition. First, that the sheer-streak is quite rotten in many places, as well as the gun and berth-deck water-ways; and from the frequent calking the gun and spar-decks have undergone, they have become much worn, and quite leaky, particularly the spar-deck; also, the stanchions supporting the bulwark on the spar-deck are very much decayed, and with the exception of three or four of them, are unsafe, and not able to support the rail and boats attached to it, under any thing more than ordinary circumstances.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

(Signed) JONAS DIBBLE,  
Carpenter.

WILLIAM L. HUDSON, Esq.,  
Commanding U. S. Ship Peacock.

U. S. Ship Peacock,  
Sydney, New South Wales,  
December 22d, 1839.

SIR,—

I have delayed reporting in writing the defective state of the Peacock until the present time, with a full knowledge it would have been utterly impossible to have completed the necessary repairs at this port in sufficient time for our Antarctic cruise. I feel, too, that the government and the whole country are anticipating results from that quarter, and are under the full belief that all the ships composing this squadron were thoroughly overhauled, and amply prepared to encounter every kind of weather. I have no wish at present to undeceive them, but feel it my duty to state to you on the present occasion, that the Peacock's sheer-streak, to which the channels are bolted and ports hung, is perfectly decayed, fore and aft, and that all the stanchions of the upper-deck bulwarks, are either rotten, or in an advanced state of decay. Against these defects, however, I feel it my duty to contend, without anticipating any thing but favourable results, but at the same time prepared for the worst that may occur.

Yours, respectfully,

(Signed) W. M. L. HUDSON.

CAPTAIN CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition.