

attention to accelerate its complete attainment. All the risk attendant on the undertaking he will cheerfully bear; he will require no pecuniary aid, and all the encouragement he humbly solicits, is the protection of government, permission to occupy a sufficient tract of unoccupied lands to feed his flocks, and the indulgence of selecting from amongst the convicts, such men for shepherds, as may, from their previous occupations, know something of the business.

(Signed) JOHN M'ARTHUR.

London, 26th July, 1803.

XXIV.

U. S. Flag-Ship Vincennes,
New Zealand, Bay of Islands, April 5th, 1840.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I need not tell you how much I feel interested in your cruise. From the interest you took in the outfit of our expedition, I am sure you well know the interest it excites, and how much this feeling is heightened by a knowledge on my part of what you have undertaken, and have to go through. This prompts me to a desire to be useful to you if possible, and to give you my experience of the last season among the ice, whither you are bound.

Your cruise will be an arduous one, no matter how you may be enlightened on your course; but you have so much knowledge of the ice, and the manner of treating it, that it appears almost presumptuous in me to sit down to give you any hints relative to it. But, believing as I do, that the ice of the Antarctic is of a totally different character from that of the Arctic, I venture to offer you a few hints that may be useful to you in your undertaking; and although my instructions are binding upon me relative to discoveries, I am nevertheless aware that I am acting as my government would order, if they could have anticipated the case, knowing how deeply it feels the liberal assistance and great interest evinced by all the societies and distinguished men of Great Britain, to promote and aid this, our first undertaking in the great cause of science and usefulness; and I must add the pleasure it gives to me personally, to be able to return, though in a small degree, the great obligation I myself feel under to you, and many others, the promoters of your undertaking.

WINDS.—The winds for the first fortnight of our time, to the eastward of longitude 140° E., were from the northward and westward, light generally, accompanied occasionally with clear weather for hours, and again with dense fogs of short duration, with a long swell from the same quarter.