

XXV.

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

SIR,—

The following instructions will claim your particular attention during our contemplated Antarctic cruise.

1st. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon you the necessity to use every means in your power to avoid a separation, as the lives of those entrusted to your particular care, and those comprising the squadron, may be jeopardized by it.

2d. The most careful attention must be given by you to the health and comfort of your crew, and the most economical care and expenditure of your stores and provisions. The greatest attention to the cleanliness and airing of the vessels, and the drying of the clothes and bedding to avoid all dampness and foul air, are likewise essential.

In the event of your being frozen up or detained by the ice, your responsibilities will be great, and every precaution must be taken to insure your safety. You may rest assured that every exertion will be made to relieve you at the earliest possible day.

I now give you a short sketch of what I deem to be the principal object of our cruise towards the Antarctic Circle: first, to reach as high a southern latitude as can be attained, without hazarding the safety of your vessel and crew; and last, to make all the observations that my former instructions have pointed out, including the dip and intensity.

In the event of parting company, you will rendezvous, first, at Macquarie Island, if it should occur before reaching its latitude, where you will remain forty-eight hours, off and on; thence proceed to the Emerald Isle, waiting on and off thirty-six hours, and from thence to the south as far as the ice will permit, and continue cruising along its borders, between the longitude of 160° E. and 105° E., until the 1st of March, at which period it is deemed the season will become too far advanced to proceed south with any chance of success.

On your return, you will proceed to the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, where you will await my arrival, or find orders with the American consul, resident there.

If the Lord Auckland Group should lay in your path on your return, you will find a secure harbour in that of Sarah's Bosom, in latitude $50^{\circ} 38' S.$, longitude $166^{\circ} 16' E.$

On your return, you will vary your route as much as possible, or as the weather and state of your vessel will permit.