

In case you should not be able to reach the Bay of Islands, prior to the 25th of March, you will thence make for the island of Tongataboo, Friendly Group, where you will find me or orders directing your further movements. (If no intelligence before the 15th of April, you will then proceed to the Feejee Group of Islands, Harbour of Takanova, or Sandalwood Bay, and there continue to employ yourself making the various surveys directed in the copy of the instructions.)

Leave letters where you may stop, and place signal No. 2 on a conspicuous spot; No. 1 will represent the Vincennes, No. 3 the Porpoise, and No. 4 the Flying-Fish.

In the event of your penetrating the ice, with the prospect of a clear sea before you, you will steer to the westward, bearing in mind that the only prospect of again clearing it is on the route you first followed, or that supposed to have been taken by Weddell, between the longitude of  $35^{\circ}$  and  $49^{\circ}$  W.

On clearing it, you will proceed to carry out the foregoing instructions, to make the appointed rendezvous with the least possible delay.

(It is my intention, if I am not detained by ice, to reach the harbour of Sandalwood Bay, in the Feejee Group, in April, and after examining those islands, to proceed to the Sandwich Islands for provisions early in July. I state this that you may govern yourself accordingly, in the event of your not being able to meet me or the Peacock at any of the rendezvous pointed out. Should you fall in with the Peacock, Captain Hudson will give you the necessary instructions.)

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

The foregoing instructions were sent to Captain Hudson. To Lieutenants-Commandant Ringgold and Pinkney, without the clause in parenthesis.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
At Sea, December 29th, 1839.

SIR,—

The following observations and duties will be attended to on board the Flying-Fish, under your command, during her present cruise to the Antarctic Ocean:

- 1st. You will keep a daily journal of every occurrence of interest.
- 2d. Your route will be daily laid down upon the skeleton chart;