

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
At Sea, January 31st, 1840.

SIR,—

I have received your letter of this date, restoring me to duty, enclosing a report of the assistant-surgeons of this ship, and directing me after due examination and consultation relative to the health and condition of the crew, to report to you in writing my opinion in regard to the same.

In obedience to that order, I respectfully report that, in my opinion, the health of the crew is materially affected by the severe fatigue, want of sleep, and exposure to the weather, to which they have lately been subjected; that a continuance of these hardships, even for a very short period, will entirely disqualify a great number of men for their duty; and that the necessary attention to the health of the crew, and their future efficiency and usefulness, demand the immediate return of the ship to a mild climate.

I am, very respectfully,

EDWARD GILCHRIST,
Acting Surgeon.

CHARLES WILKES, Esq.,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
At Sea, January 31st, 1840.

SIR,—

In answer to your letter of this date, enclosing the report of the medical officers on the present state of the health of the crew, and requesting the opinion of the ward-room officers, as to the expediency of pushing farther south under the present circumstances, we would state, that, in our opinion, it would be as well to hold on until tomorrow at meridian, in order, should the weather then prove more favourable, to attempt making the recently discovered land at another point; but that on a material increase of the sick-list, or continuance of the present bad weather beyond the above period, we should run to the northward.

We are, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) OVERTON CARR,
First Lieutenant.

A. LUDLOW CASE,
JOSEPH A. UNDERWOOD,
Lieutenants.

EDMUND H. DE HAVEN,
SAMUEL R. KNOX,
Acting Masters

To CHARLES WILKES, Esq.,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.