

duties now and hereafter required of them, at a time when the ship and rigging are enveloped in ice.

In fact, I am of opinion, that the future operations should not be hazarded by encountering dangers and risks to be run, under all the circumstances, greater than I have ever encountered in the course of seven years' sea service.

In expressing, however, finally and respectfully, my opinions, I most cheerfully yield to those of more experience and skill, if they do not concur with mine.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. R. WALDRON,

Purser U. S. Navy.

CHARLES WILKES, Esq.,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

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

SIR,—

In reply to your communication of this date, addressed to the ward-room officers of this ship, I would state, that I think that it would be advisable to remain in this vicinity at least two days longer, and if possible, get farther information respecting the recently discovered land. At the expiration of the above mentioned time, if the stormy weather we have experienced should continue, or the number of sick be increased, I think it would be expedient to bear up to the northward. In expressing this opinion, I am sensible of the hardship and danger to which the officers and men are exposed, but I am also prepared to share the same with them in any manner you may dictate.

Respectfully, yours,

(Signed) JARED ELLIOTT.

CHARLES WILKES, Esq.,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.