

and sudden transitions. The great anxiety I felt to attain a high southern parallel, and obtain convincing proofs of the existence of land from the indications presented, added to the ardour of the officers and crew, often involved us in situations, alike interesting, critical, and dangerous, attributing our escapes without injury to the too plain guidance of the watchful hand of Providence.

Among the most pleasing reflections are those of the perfect exemption from sickness and disease,—not a serious case occurring during the whole period, and not a symptom of incipient scurvy. I have avoided all unnecessary exposure, affording every convenience and comfort to the crew, ever keeping in mind, and rigidly adhering to, your sanitary regulations.

I cannot sufficiently express the satisfaction I feel in reporting the very exemplary conduct of the crew; a universal desire to perform their several duties was evinced, from the eldest to the youngest. I beg leave to recommend them in the strongest terms to your notice and consideration.

To the officers I return my thanks: they were ever attentive and unremitting in their duties, greatly contributing to the gratifying and safe termination of the cruise.

I feel great pleasure in speaking in high terms of them, and feel assured they will receive from you the merit which they deserve.

The observations resulting from the cruise, together with the currents, soundings, &c., are minutely and correctly placed upon the chart accompanying, which indicates the track of our researches along the Antarctic Circle.

I have the honour to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) CADWALADER RINGGOLD,

Lieut. Com. U. S. Navy.

To CHARLES WILKES, Esq.,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

XXXI.

[Copy.]

SIR,—

In reply to your letter of yesterday, I have to inform you that Captain William Hobson, R. N., arrived here on the 29th January, ult., in H. B. M. ship *Herald*, and that on the following day the two proclamations now enclosed were made. During the next week