

to be instructed to return to the Samoan Group, and re-examine the surveys made by the Flying-Fish and boats, of the south side of Upolu, in which I had detected oversights, and suspected neglect; to seek for several small and doubtful islands, said to be under the equator, and to visit the little-known groups of Ellice and Kingsmill; to inquire into the fate of Captain Dowsett, commanding an American schooner engaged in the whale-fishery at the Pescadores; and to seek redress for the capture of the American brig *Waverley*, owned by Messrs. Pierce and Co., of Oahu, at Strong's Island.

Having by the arrival of the *Porpoise* learned the news of the murder of *Gideon Smith* at Upolu, I included in my orders to Captain Hudson, the duty of investigating the circumstances of the crime, and punishing the offenders. He was likewise instructed to seek for the magnetic equator in longitude 160° W., and to follow it down to the westward. These duties accomplished, I directed him, after visiting Ascension Island, to join me at the Columbia River, towards the end of the coming month of April.

These instructions covered a wide field, which had, as far as I could learn, been but little explored, and which our whaling fleet is continually traversing. To examine it could not fail to be highly useful to those engaged in that important branch of industry.

I designed to employ the *Porpoise* in a more close examination of some islands in the Paumotu Group or Low Archipelago, which it had not been in my power to accomplish during our visit of the previous year. She was also to leave a party, with the boring apparatus, upon one of the islands, as soon as she reached the group, to remain there for about six weeks, or so long as the vessel was engaged in the examination of the other islands. This examination being completed, Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold was directed to touch at Tahiti, and thence, after surveying Penrhyn and Flint's Islands, to return to Oahu before the 1st of April.

With the *Vincennes*, it was my intention to proceed to Hawaii, there to ascend to the top of Mauna Loa; to make the pendulum observations on the summit and at the base of that mountain; to examine the craters and late eruptions; and after performing these duties, if time allowed, to proceed to the Marquesas Islands, and thence to pass along the magnetic equator to the meridian of the Hawaiian Islands, whither it was my intention to return before the 1st of April, to meet the *Porpoise*, and proceed, in company with her, to the Northwest Coast. I deemed the time from the 25th of November would be amply sufficient, with proper attention, to enable us to perform these duties,