

Rodriguez Shoal, in longitude 155° W., where it is supposed to exist, and examine and survey it.

If you should obtain any information of islands or shoals, laying in or near your track, you may make a deviation; but as soon as you have completed your search, you will resume the course pointed out to you, which must be strictly adhered to, as any deviation therefrom may interfere with the track of the rest of the squadron, and cause a waste of time.

In making search for land, you will draw circles of your visual horizon, and be particular not to omit examining the space carefully.

You may select such an island as may seem to you most advantageous to use the boring apparatus; landing thereon a party under a careful officer, (Lieutenant Johnson,) whom you will specially instruct in its use, carefully preserving the borings for every foot in depth, in boxes properly marked; the armourer and forge will of necessity accompany the party.

You will be particular in giving Lieutenant Johnson instructions relative to the preservation of the health of the party, taking every precaution not to come in collision with the natives, if any should be on the island; and equally cautious to guard against surprise or treachery on the part of the natives.

You will take care to furnish the party with ample supplies.

The General Order in relation to intercourse with the natives, will be observed during your cruise as heretofore.

Tides will be carefully observed by the shore-party hourly.

You will obtain the transverse sections of at least three of the coral islands (the one on which the boring apparatus is used being one of them), with the level and soundings, inside and out, on all the points of the island where it is possible to obtain them, in connexion with an accurate survey of the same.

On your arrival at Matavai, you will be very particular in obtaining sights (equal altitudes) for your chronometers, and also on all the islands you may discover or survey.

You will also try the dip and intensity, both at sea and on shore, whenever practicable.

Between thirty and forty days is deemed ample time to secure the success of the boring experiment, which it is recommended should be continued throughout the twenty-four hours, which may easily be effected by a proper division of the force employed.

I do not designate any particular island on which the boring experiment is to be made: this must depend upon how you fall in with the Paumotu Group. I would have you select one at as early a period as