

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Nisqually Harbour,
May 16th, 1841.

SIR,—

You will proceed with the launch, first cutter, Ariel, and Pilot, accompanied by Acting-Master Totten, Passed Midshipmen May and Colvocoressis, to the point in the passage west of Vashon's Island, below the Narrows (where Mr. Colvocoressis's signal was placed), from which you will begin the survey of the passage, proceeding northward until you reach the north end of Vashon's Island, where you will connect your work with the Porpoise on a staff erected there by that vessel. If you should find none, you will erect a large pole-signal, somewhat similar to those we have observed in the different bays; and also one on the small island opposite, which I have named Bainbridge Island, leaving a note of your having done so for Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, to which he will connect his work.

You will from thence proceed (not meeting the Porpoise) direct for Port Lawrence, the place in which we once anchored, at the mouth of Hood's Canal, which you will proceed to survey, and endeavour to find a passage through the head of it, into Puget Sound, by some outlet or channel that may possibly exist: if one should be found, you will continue your survey through it, and into the waters of Puget Sound; if not, after completing the survey of Hood's Canal, you will return by its entrance to Admiralty Inlet, and thence toward the ship.

On your arrival at the Narrows, you will again take up the survey, connecting it with Mr. Totten's No. 1, and Mr. Eld's No. 8, and from thence into Puget Sound, taking its northern side, and islands near it in your progress to the southward and westward. From this point you will despatch one of your boats to me, with information of your progress.

The signals you put upon these islands must be well marked, so as to be distinctly seen and recognised.

You will continue up the arms and inlets, until you reach the head of the sound, and all its branches, after which you will continue the survey toward the ship at Nisqually.

In case of your falling in with the Porpoise, Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold has orders to retain you in company until he reaches the mouth of Hood's Canal, when you will separate from him.

The following instructions will guide you in your surveys.

Whenever practicable, your bases will be measured by chain, and the true direction of the line found.

Astronomical observations will be particularly attended to, for lati-