person authorized by me or the government of the United States, to receive her.

In making this request, I am well aware of the desire the Honourable Hudson Bay Company and its officers have always shown to do every thing in their power to afford relief to those in distress, and the deep feeling all attached to this squadron have evinced for the relief extended to ourselves individually, during the late disaster; and it will only be placing a suitable boat in the hands of the Company, in which to afford relief more promptly. I therefore have little doubt but that you will not object to assume the charge, and I assure you it will afford me great satisfaction hereafter, to hear that she has been of any use in saving lives or property.

The launch will be left with Mr. Burnie, with all her fixtures complete.

<div style="text-align:center">

I am, with much respect,

Yours, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,

Commanding Exploring Expedition.

</div>

To JOHN M'LAUGHLIN, ESQ.,
    Chief Factor, H. B. C. Fort Vancouver.

<div style="text-align:center">

V I.

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<div style="text-align:center">

U. S. Brig Porpoise,
Columbia River,
August 7th, 1841.

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SIR,—

You are transferred to the Vincennes, now laying off and on the river, in order to carry her to the bay of San Francisco; and you will, without delay, proceed to that port, and report your arrival duly to the Commandant of the Presidio as coming for the purpose of refreshing the crew, and to await my arrival with the rest of the squadron.

After this ceremony is performed, you will proceed with the ship to anchor near the island of Molate, in the northern branch of the bay; when you will safely moor the Vincennes, leaving her in charge of Lieutenant Carr, with one other lieutenant, Passed Midshipman Davis, and three midshipmen, and proceed with six boats, including your own, to examine the river Sacramento and its branches. This you will do by running to its head waters, or as far as it is practicable to pursue the river with a boat, and then bring the survey down from the extreme point arrived at, where your latitude and longitude must be carefully determined. This it is believed will be on the head