

The course pointed out is intended to lead you, by the time you reach the coast of Japan, near the South Island.

You will pay particular attention to trying the current daily, if possible; and when running at night, in order to avoid passing over banks, &c., you will get a cast of the patent lead every hour, about forty fathoms up and down. This may be easily done, sailing at the rate of seven knots.

Your dip and intensity apparatus will be used at every island you can find at one hundred and fifty miles apart. I wish a series to be carried across this ocean.

You will pay particular attention to your sailing and keeping together; and when the weather proves fine, spread so as to cover as much space as possible, keeping two good men on the look-out.

There are several reefs lying off Gardner's Island, on its north as well as its south side.

In the vicinity of shoals, or where they are supposed to exist, you will not run at night, taking care not to fall to leeward of their locality.

Any islands or reefs fallen in with must be carefully surveyed to ascertain the extent of their dangers, and you will ascertain also if they afford any supplies of wood and water, whereat a vessel might recruit.

Every three days you will get a comparison with the Oregon's chronometers; and your positions, together with courses, must be represented on your charts.

After you have reached the locality of the islands of Todos los Santos and that called South Island on the chart of Arrowsmith, you will pass directly into the China seas by Formosa Passage, making the north Bashee, and then proceed direct to Singapore, where you will arrive without fail in the first week of February, and there await me or orders.

There are many shoals and reefs which it is impossible for me to draw your attention to particularly; but I desire that you will let no opportunity pass of gaining information relative to every thing that may lay in your route towards the coast of Japan, and that may be useful to our whaling interests.

Wishing you a pleasant cruise,

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition

LIEUT. COM. C. RINGGOLD,
U. S. Brig Porpoise.