

some and useless, are not to be lost sight of, but are to be picked up for examination.

Every opportunity of trying the current must be taken advantage of, and marked.

Astronomical observations, viz., lunar distances of the stars, east, and west of the moon, of the sun, and of the planets, to be frequently taken.

Observations for chronometers must be taken daily, mornings and afternoons, when the weather will permit; azimuths and amplitudes, at least once or twice a day, in the morning, or in the afternoon, and the ship's head noted at the same time.

Any of the officers (among whom are considered the scientific gentlemen) will on all occasions promote the objects of the Expedition by procuring any article referred to in the foregoing instructions, or aiding in carrying into effect the same. And the officer of the deck is authorized to stop the ship's way, and perform any evolution with a view of carrying into effect the above, in which case he will report the same immediately to me, if time does not permit his doing so previously.

It is necessary for the sea-officers to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the heavenly constellations, in order to be efficient in noting the course of meteors, &c.

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
At Sea, August 25th, 1838.

XI.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
At Sea, August 25th, 1838.

THE undersigned, commanding the Exploring Expedition, in communicating the following instructions, from the Navy Department, for the government and information of those under his command, directs the particular attention of all persons in the Expedition to the same, and especially to that part of them, which prohibits any one furnishing to persons not attached to the Exploring Expedition, any communications which have reference to the objects or proceedings of the Expedition.

“Although the primary object of the Expedition is the promotion of the great interests of commerce and navigation, yet you will take all occasions, not incompatible with the great purpose of your undertaking, to extend the bounds of science, and promote the acquisition of knowledge. For the more successful attainment of this, a corps of