

this distinguished navigator, will essentially contribute to the success of an enterprise in which he takes so deep an interest. It being considered highly important, that no journal of this voyage, either partial or complete, should be published, without the authority and under the supervision of the government, at whose expense this Expedition is undertaken, you will, before you reach the waters of the United States, require from every person under your command, the surrender of all journals, memorandums, remarks, writings, drawings, sketches, and paintings, as well as all specimens of every kind, collected or prepared during your absence from the United States. After causing correct inventories of these to be made, and signed by two commissioned officers, and by the parties by whom they were collected or prepared, you will cause them to be carefully sealed by the said officers, and reserved for such disposition as the Department may direct. You will adopt the most efficient measures to prepare and preserve all specimens of natural history that may be collected; and should any opportunity occur for sending them home by a vessel of war of the United States, also copies of information, duplicates of specimens, or any other materials, you may deem important to preserve from future accident, you will avail yourself of the occasion; forwarding, as frequently as may be done with safety, details of your voyage, and its most material events; at the same time strictly prohibiting all communications, except to this Department, from any person attached to the Expedition, referring to discoveries, or any circumstances connected with the progress of your enterprise.

“It is believed that the officers under your command require no special advice or direction from this Department. Bearing in mind, as they no doubt will, that the undertaking in which they are about assisting to accomplish, is one that necessarily attracts the attention of the civilized world, and that the honour and interest of their country are equally involved in its results, it is not for a moment doubted, but that in this, as on all other occasions, they will so conduct themselves as to add to the reputation our navy has so justly acquired at home and abroad.

“With the best wishes for the success of the Expedition, and the safe return of yourself and your companions,

“I am, very respectfully, &c.,

(Signed) “JAS. K. PAULDING,

“Secretary of the Navy.

“Navy Department, August 11th, 1838.”

(Signed) CHARLES WILKES,

Commanding Exploring Expedition.