

full and complete memoranda of all observations, made at the time, and entered in the journals.

2d. I consider it of great importance, that every officer should know the actual situation of the ship, from his own calculations, that when called upon at any moment, he might be able to refer to his own journal for the results. On this might possibly depend the safety and ultimate success of the Expedition, as one or two might fall into error, but it is not likely that many would.

3d. The kind of journal required is not a mere copy of the log-board, but it is a diary, in which will be noticed all that relates to public information, being a record of all objects of interest, however small, which may take place during the cruise, in the scientific or any other department: and the views of the officer ought to be briefly expressed concerning things that may come under his notice. The very record that *nothing* has transpired during the day, may be of use; but it is believed that this will be of rare occurrence.

The whole will form a mass of evidence for the use of the government on our return, which will tend to illustrate and make clear the transactions and occurrences that may have taken place, as well as the habits, manners, customs, &c., of the natives, and the positions, descriptions, and character of such places as we may visit.

These memoranda are highly essential to me, in order that nothing may be neglected or overlooked in conducting the Expedition to a successful issue, in which we are all so deeply interested. I wish particularly to avail myself of the results and observations of all, to avoid the possibility of passing over any subject without full examination and remark.

A casual memorandum or observation, believed at the time of little importance, may lead to important and satisfactory results. These journals, therefore, will become a useful medium of communication between the officers and myself, relative to the scientific and other duties in progress.

I trust I need not remark that the above relates entirely to public transactions. With private affairs I have nothing to do: they are, and always should be deemed sacred, and, consequently, will form no part of the records.

I enclose a special order relating to this subject, which you will promulgate to the officers of this ship.

I am, respectfully, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

THOMAS T. CRAVEN,
First Lieutenant, Vincennes.