

marked No. 3, which appears to me to embrace the case, and has, in my opinion, pledged the faith of the government fully; whether he was authorized by the Department to give such pledges or not, is, I think, wholly immaterial to the present case. It has been done: and those who have complied and received the bounty, believed such to be the fact, which the Department alone could give, thereby binding the contract on the part of the government; which (acting for the best interests of the service in which we are engaged) I have thought proper to confirm by issuing the order referred to, which I cannot doubt will meet your approbation.

I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

To the HON. JAMES K. PAULDING,
Secretary of the Navy.

XV.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Off Madeira, September 20th, 1838.

SIR,—

Although, previous to sailing from Hampton Roads, I was aware of some of the deficiencies in the outfits of this ship and the Peacock, in preparing them at the navy-yard, Norfolk, for the service in which we are engaged, I omitted to mention the same to the Department, owing to the necessity of our sailing without delay or detention; but since our arrival at this port, the Peacock particularly has been found in such a condition, that it is with regret I consider it my duty to represent the same to you, and take leave to enclose herewith a report of their commander, by which it appears she was in a much worse condition on leaving the dock-yard at Norfolk, than had been anticipated; instead of being well prepared for the service required in the Exploring Expedition.

I have forwarded to you, through the navy-agent at New York, for your examination, a box containing an iron hoop, taken from one of the pumps of the Peacock, as a fair specimen of the little attention which had been bestowed upon her at the navy-yard in her repairs. I have to state also, that a few days after the ship left the navy-yard, her fore and cross-jack-yards were found so much decayed, that it was necessary to replace them by new ones, on representation of her commander.

I consider it my duty to state that we have found nearly all the men furnished us from the receiving-ship, Norfolk, by your order, unfit for