

XXIV.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RELIEF, NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL AT SEA.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Rio de Janeiro, December 18th, 1838.

SIR,—

You will sail from this harbour, and follow strictly the following instructions, which are intended for your government.

1st. You will proceed with all possible despatch with the Relief, under your command, to Orange Harbour, and there await my arrival.

2d. Orange Harbour is situated in latitude $55^{\circ} 30' 50''$ S., and longitude $68^{\circ} 00' 23''$ W.

3d. You will pursue such a course as will take you on soundings about latitude 45° S., and continue on them all the way to Terra del Fuego, as near as you can to the land, westerly winds prevailing most of the way.

4th. You will pass through the Straits of Le Maire, and double close around the southeast point of Terra del Fuego, keeping in with the land until you are up with the Hermit Islands; you will then have your port open to you clear of hidden dangers.

5th. A plan of Orange Harbour is among your Book of Charts, No. 1079.

6th. On your arrival there, you will set up tide-staves, similar to those now in use by us on the Island of Enxados, and keep an hourly register of the rise and fall.

7th. At Orange Harbour, you will employ your crew in cutting fifty cords of the best wood, and deposit the same at the most convenient landings, for the use of the squadron on its arrival.

8th. You will fill up with water, and have your stores and provisions ready for any delivery.

9th. Your anchorage will be within Burnt Island, where you will establish the light sent you, which you will place in charge of some careful person, to be kept lighted during the night. In the event of its failing, you will keep a bonfire on shore, as a night-signal for the squadron.

10th. You will carefully preserve all the soundings brought up by your deep-sea lead, in papers, with the positions where they were had.

11th. On your route you will make repeated trials of the current, and while on soundings you will anchor your boat with the deep-sea