

XXV.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Orange Harbour, Terra del Fuego,
February 22d, 1839.

SIR,—

Although I am aware of the lateness of the season, and the risk to be incurred in attempting to make any explorations within the Antarctic Circle; yet I am of the opinion that there are many advantages to be derived from it, that will prove of incalculable benefit in any future attempts we may hereafter make at the proper season.

You will, therefore, with the Peacock and tender Flying-Fish, make the attempt to carry out the following instructions.

1st. On sailing from this anchorage, you will proceed as far as the *Ne Plus Ultra* of Captain Cook, in longitude 105° W., and from thence you will extend your researches as far to the southward and eastward as you can reach, without rendering yourself liable to be closed in by the ice.

2d. You will carefully note your daily positions on the skeleton chart herewith, and trace upon it, by astronomical and tangent observations, (not by compass,) all the ice you may fall in with during the cruise, whether island or field-ice.

3d. You will navigate to the southward, and eastward until you reach the western side of Palmer's or Graham's Land.

4th. It is believed that the latter part of the summer will afford you an opportunity of penetrating here farther south than has yet been done, and possibly meet an extension of Palmer's Land, more to the westward: if you should succeed, you will trace it to the eastward, and return by the southern and eastern side of it, to this anchorage, thus circumnavigating this land, unless you should receive further information from me.

5th. Herewith you will receive a dipping and intensity needle, with which you will make observations on any floe of ice that may be accessible.

6th. In your progress to the eastward from Cook's *Ne Plus Ultra*, 105° W., you will endeavour to get more and more to the southward, and to pass to the southward of the two small islands called Peter I. and Alexander, (the farthest land south discovered by the Russians in 1821,) and then fall in with what Briscoe denominated Graham's or Palmer's Land, (its proper American name.) I am of the opinion that it extends much farther to the southward and westward than where Briscoe saw the Adelaide Mountains, and that the land stretches or