

XXVI.

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

SIR,—

The Sea-Gull, placed under your charge, will be attached to the Porpoise. I cannot impress upon you too strongly the necessity of keeping company, as the safety of the crews of both vessels may otherwise be hazarded; you will, therefore, use every means in your power to prevent a separation.

1st. You will keep a strict daily journal of every occurrence relative to your co-operations with the Porpoise.

2d. A skeleton chart will be furnished you, comprising the latitudes and longitudes in which you will cruise, upon which chart an accurate track will be laid down of her route; also the position of all land, islands of ice, &c., which may be observed. Astronomical bearings, when the weather will permit, will be preferable for this purpose.

3d. You will enter also in your journal, the variation of the compass, morning and evening; sketches of refractions, and minute observations of all phenomena that may be seen; also, sketches of stratifications of ice, temperature of the water on the weather and lee sides of ice-islands, &c.; the form and direction of currents, and the apparent formation of the ice; also the collection and preservation of any specimens of earth or stones that may be discovered on the ice, and the appearance of any halos, auroras australis, &c.

4th. In the event of parting company, you will rendezvous, first, for the Porpoise, off Cape Melville, George's Island, in latitude $61^{\circ} 55' S.$, longitude $58^{\circ} W.$, to remain two days; and, secondly, at and near the coast of the east side of Palmer's Land. You will, in such a case of separation, avoid by all possible means being shut up in the ice, and will, on the probability of such an event, proceed at once to Deception Island, which harbour you will if possible enter, and deposit in a grave formed of stones, on the north side of the entrance of the harbour, information relative to your parting company, &c.; and you will remain there for orders as long as your safety will allow, and while there you will hunt for and examine a self-registering thermometer, left there some time since on the point forming the cove.

5th. You will give particular attention to the health and comfort of