

chart; and you will stop at Port Famine, on your way there and back, and such other safe harbours as may appear to offer advantages for scientific observations and collections; and you will return to this anchorage by the Straits of Le Maire, on or before the 15th of April next, if possible, where you will find me, or orders on the summit of Burnt Island; in the absence of which, you will proceed direct to Valparaiso.

7th. The north side of the Straits of Magellan affords at all times good anchorage; you will keep it close on board.

8th. The period of your absence must not exceed fifty days, if it can be avoided; during which time I have no doubt all on board will exert themselves in making the best possible use of the short space of time allowed.

9th. You will avoid being blown off to the eastward, as in such event the Expedition will suffer.

10th. Should any accident happen to the Relief, you will despatch without delay a boat to this anchorage, under charge of an officer, through the route you are to enter, pursuing thence Whale-Boat and Darwin Sounds, through the Beagle Channel, as far as the passage of Host and Navarin Islands, thence into Nassau Bay to Orange Harbour.

11th. Mr. Percival has been ordered to the Relief as pilot; he has been in the Straits of Magellan, and will afford you all the aid in his power.

You will give particular attention to the health and comfort of all under your command.

Wishing you a safe and successful cruise,

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,

Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUT. COM. A. K. LONG,  
U. S. Ship Relief.

### XXXI.

U. S. Ship Peacock,  
At Sea, lat. 60° S., long. 84° W.,  
April 1st, 1839.

SIR,—

After separating from you in Orange Bay on the 25th of February, I proceeded with the tender Flying-Fish, under the command of Lieutenant Walker, to carry out your instructions, in making a reconnaissance south. On the afternoon of the 26th, a few miles to the west-