

In the event of the Sea-Gull arriving after receipt of this letter, you will furnish her at Valparaiso with all necessary articles, and render her complete for the intended service. After having completed which, you will lose no time in proceeding on the route designated above.

Your attention is particularly called to investigating any shoal, reef or island that you may fall in with, not duly represented on your chart, taking azimuth bearings, when you have determined your situation.

If you should not possess the necessary charts of the Pacific Ocean, you will at once make a requisition on the navy agent for that purpose, getting the latest and the best; I have written to him accordingly to supply all your wants, believing that you will require nothing that is not necessary.

You will, of course, continue the usual observations of temperature, &c., and acquire as much information on your route as you can.

In the event of the Sea-Gull not being heard from within four months after the 1st of June, you have permission to return to the United States, or join the squadron on the Pacific Station, whichever may suit your own views. The attempt to follow the squadron would be impossible, with any chance of success; therefore I do not consider myself authorized to incur the expense, and devote the time of any officer to so vague a prospect of service.

Wishing you a pleasant and prosperous passage,

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

LIEUT. COM. T. T. CRAVEN,  
Valparaiso.

Similar instructions were given to Lieutenant-Commandant Craven at Callao, omitting those parts relating to Valparaiso.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
Harbour of Callao, July 11th, 1839.

SIR,—

You will avoid by all means in your power a separation; in the event of such an occasion, you will steer for the island of St. Paul's, or its supposed locality; thence to the island of Minerva or Clermont de Tonnerre, in latitude  $18^{\circ} 32'$  S., longitude  $136^{\circ}$  W.; then hauling to the northward to make the Isle of Disappointment; thence by King George's Group, Waterlandt Land, and Dean's Island; and from thence to Matavai Bay in the island of Tahiti.

You will at each of these places make some stay, and remain at Matavai Bay until you hear from me.