

The reader who shall look to this Narrative for my version of the developments which were elicited by the proceedings of the courts-martial, will be disappointed, as I shall make no allusions that I can possibly avoid, to any of the subjects of a personal character that came before those tribunals, that occurred after the return of the Expedition; nor will the following Narrative embrace any personal matters or difficulties that may have taken place with the officers, for the reason that I do not regard such details as relevant or interesting to the general reader. The attempts to throw impediments in my way were unsuccessful, and I fully believe, that from whatever motive they may have arisen, those who caused them are now desirous that they should be forgotten. My countrymen will see that my duties were sufficiently arduous without having other difficulties to contend with, and I have the gratification of feeling that those duties have been performed, and the results fairly obtained.

The performance of these duties is the best refutation that can be given to the many misstatements that have been circulated to the prejudice of the Expedition, but which, I trust, will now be set at rest. I have never had any personal feeling in the matter, except that which naturally arises from the wish to overcome all impediments, of whatever nature they might be. I can, therefore, have no desire but to give the true version of every circumstance of a public nature that may concern the Expedition, and I hope that I shall be able to do it with impartiality and justice, touching as lightly as possible on the faults of individuals, and bestowing praise wherever it is justly due.

The objects intended to be accomplished by the Expedition, were such as to require not merely the usual obedience to the orders of its commander, but demanded, in addition, a zeal, that could only be inspired by a strong interest in its success, and intelligence of a higher character than is called into action in the ordinary routine of the duty of an officer. Deficiency in either quality was to oppose an obstacle to the success of the enterprise; in a word, we were placed in circumstances in which it became necessary for us to perform more than our ordinary duties. Those who felt and appreciated our situation, are entitled to the highest praise; while some apology may be made for others, who, perhaps, were unconscious of any failure in discipline, or actual dereliction of duty, and may have thought that they had cause to be aggrieved, when they found that I was not satisfied with the manner in which their services were rendered; yet, it was as incumbent on me to see that our work was not retarded by their want of zeal and knowledge, as to shorten sail on the approach of the tempest.

The instruments I was supplied with, were procured by myself in Europe;