

fix an earlier day. I feel much satisfaction in reflecting on the confidence the President and Secretary placed in me. It was fully appreciated. The exertions of all were bent to fulfil this pledge, although almost all those connected with the enterprise doubted the possibility of getting off so soon. Every thing, however, was completed, and I left Washington on the 10th of August.

On my arrival at Norfolk, I found every thing in a state of forwardness, and the Squadron in Hampton Roads, whither they had dropped down on the 8th of August. The names of the pilot-boats were now changed to the Sea-Gull and Flying-Fish, as had been agreed upon with Mr. Paulding; and they were placed under command of Passed Midshipmen Reid and Knox.

I was well aware, from my own observations and the reports made to me, that we were any thing but well equipped for such a cruise. But whatever our defects were, it was now entirely too late to remedy them. The great anxiety of the government to have us get to sea, after the vexatious delays that had before occurred in the sailing of the Expedition, disappointing the honest expectations of the whole country, and particularly the depressing effect any further delay would produce on the spirits and ardour of the officers and men, made me come to the resolution to put to sea at all hazards, and endeavour to remedy the defects as much as possible within our own means, or on our arrival at places where it could be done effectually.

Before sailing from Hampton Roads, the internal rules and regulations for the government of the Squadron were issued, in order to make the terms of duties more uniform, and that in case of transfer of men and officers during the cruise, from one vessel to another, no one could be at a loss to know the duties he had to perform. These continued without any material change to be rigidly enforced throughout the cruise. Signal-books were also arranged to supply the defective ones that are furnished the navy.

I was called upon, in a few cases, to exercise the means in my possession to punish aggressions. Yet my aim has been throughout the cruise, so to conduct the duties devolving upon the Squadron, that it would carry with it the force of moral principle. All the regulations and operations were made to tend to this end. I considered this as one of my first duties, and in it I have been well supported by Captain Hudson and Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, and by most of the officers of the Expedition. I feel great satisfaction in having received testimonials from the different missionaries, that my course has been fully appreciated by them. Indeed, I have reason to rejoice that I have been enabled