

squadron, and believing that the Honourable the Secretary of the Navy, after a perusal of all the documents in relation to this case, will coincide in my views, and justify my proceedings, I have determined under all the circumstances to retain them in the squadron.

Passed Midshipmen Lewis and Harrison, and Midshipmen Blair and Henry, will therefore rejoin the Peacock forthwith.

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Callao, June 23d, 1839.

XXXIX.

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

SIR,

You will, on the arrival of the Sea-Gull at this port, proceed direct to Matavai Bay, Tahiti, Society Islands, pursuing the following route :

Steering a course that will take you in or about the longitude of 105° W., to the latitude of 20° S., which latitude you will pursue until you fall in with the Low Archipelago, and continue thereon until you reach the longitude of 134° W., where you will haul to the northward ; and make two islands, called by the English Minerva and Serle Island, and by the French Clermont de Tonnerre : they are in about latitude $18^{\circ} 32'$ S., longitude 136° W., the latter or Serle Island, in latitude $18^{\circ} 05'$ S., longitude 137° W. The French and English differ as respects the situation of this island.

From thence you will stand again to the southward, passing in the latitude of 20° S., to see if Turnbull's Island does exist ; it is said to be in latitude $20^{\circ} 10'$ S., longitude 143° W. ; thence you will make and run over San Pablo Isle, another doubtful one, in latitude 20° S., and longitude 145° W., and from thence to Matavai Bay, where you will find me, or letters with the American Consul, directing your further movements.

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.