Capt. Cook, Resolution Sloop, at Plymouth.

Admty Office 6th July 1776.

I send you herewith the Secret Instructions which my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been pleased to sign for your proceedings with the Sloop you command & the Discovery Sloop commanded by Capt. Clerke; But as Capt. Clerke is not yet able to repair on board the Discovery, and it is of great consequence that you should yourself, proceed to the Cape of Good Hope without delay; I have it in command from their Lordships to signify their direction to you to put to Sea with the first opportunity of Wind & Weather without the Discovery Sloop, leaving directions for her Commander (to be delivered to him on his arrival at Plymouth) to follow you to the Cape of Good Hope without a Moments loss of time; and as their Lordships do not wish

that

that you should wait for him at the Cape any longer than you think it may be done with prudence, & without risking any inconvenience to the further progress of your Voyage, it is their Lordships farther direction that if you judge it proper to sail from the Cape before the Discovery arrives, you do, in that case, leave with a trusty person, to be delivered to her Commander upon his arrival, such Rendezvous & Accounts of the Course you intend to steer, as you shall think most likely to effect his speedy junction with you.

Their Lordships command me to add that a Copy of your Secret Instructions will be delivered to Capt. Clerke before he sails from Plymouth, with directions to him to open them, & execute them as far as he is able, in case he should not, after

By &c.

Secret Instructions for Capt. James Cook, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the Resolution.

Whereas the Earl of Sandwich has signified to us His Majesty's Pleasure that an attempt should be made to find out a Northern Passage by Sea from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean; And whereas we have in pursuance thereof caused His Majesty's Sloops Resolution & Discovery to be fitted in all respects proper to proceed upon a Voyage for the purpose above mentioned, And, from the experience we have had of your abilities & good conduct in your late Voyages, have thought fit to intrust you with

with the conduct of the present intended Voyage, and with that view appointed you to command the first mentioned Sloop, and directed Captain Clerke, who commands the other, to follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to proceed with the said two Sloops directly to the Cape of Good Hope, unless you shall judge it necessary to stop at — Madeira, the Cape de Verd, or Canary Islands, to take in Wine for the use of their Companies; in which case you are at liberty to do so, taking care to remain there no longer than may be necessary for that purpose.

On

 (3) On your arrival at the Cape of Good Hope you are to refresh the Sloops Companies, & to cause the Sloops to be supplied with as much Provisions & Water as they can conveniently stow.

You are if possible to leave the Cape of Good Hope by the end of October, or the beginning of November next, & proceed to the southward in search of some Islands said to have been lately seen by the French in the Latitude of 48°.00' south and about the Meridian of Mauritius. — In case you find those Islands, you are to examine them thoroughly for a good Harbour, & upon discovering one make the necessary Observations to facilitate

the

the finding it again, as a good Port, in that situation, may hereafter prove very useful, altho' it should afford little or nothing more than shelter, wood & water. You are not however to spend too much time in looking out for those Islands, or in the examination of them if found, but proceed to Otaheite or the Society Isles (touching at New Zealand in your way thither if you should judge it necessary & convenient) & taking care to arrive there time enough to admit of your giving the Sloops Companies the Refreshment they may stand in need of, before you prosecute the farther Object of these Instructions.

Upon your arrival at Otaheite, or the Society Isles, you are to land Omiah at such of

of them as he may chuse, and to leave him there.

You are to distribute among the Chiefs of those Islands such part of the Presents with which you have been supplied as you shall judge proper, reserving the remainder to distribute among the Natives of the Countries you may discover in the Northern Hemisphere; And having refreshed the People belonging to the Sloops under your command, & taken on board such Wood & Water as they may respectively stand in need of, you are to leave those Islands, in the beginning of February, or sooner if you shall judge it necessary, & then proceed in as direct a Course as you can to the Coast of New Albion, endeavouring to fall in with it in the

Latitude

Latitude of 45°. 00' North; & taking care, in your way thither, not to lose any time in search of new Lands, or to stop at any you may fall in with, unless you find it necessary to recruit your wood & water.

You are also, in your way thither, — strictly enjoined not to touch upon any part of the Spanish Dominions on the Western Continent of America, unless — driven thither by some unavoidable accident, in which case you are to stay no longer there than shall be absolutely necessary, & to be very careful not to give any umbrage or offence to any of the Inhabitants or Subjects of His Catholic Majesty. — And if in your farther progress to the Northward, as

hereafter

hereafter directed, you find any Subjects of any European Prince or State upon any part of the Coast you may think proper to visit, you are not to disturb them, or give them any just cause of offence, but on the contrary to treat them — with civility & friendship.

Upon your arrival on the Coast of New Albion you are to put into the first convenient Port to recruit your Wood & Water & procure Refreshments, & then to proceed Northward — along the Coast as far as the Latitude of 65°, or farther, if you are not obstructed by Lands or Ice; taking care not to lose any time in exploring Rivers or Inlets, or upon any other account, until you get into the before mentioned Latitude of 65°, where we

could

could wish you to arrive in the Month of June next. – When you get that length, you are very carefully to search for & to explore, such Rivers or Inlets as may appear to be of a considerable extent & pointing towards Hudsons or Buffins Bays; and, if from your own Observations, or from any information you may receive from the Natives (who, there is reason to believe, are the same Race of People, & speak the same Language, of which you are furnished with a Vocabulary, as the Esquimaux) there shall appear to be a certainty, or even a probability, of a Water Passage into the aforementioned Bays, or either of them, you are, in such case to use your utmost endeavours to pass through with one or both of the Sloops, unless you shall

shall be of opinion that the passage may be effected with more certainty, or with greater probability, by smaller Vessels, in which case you are to set up the Frames of one or both the small Vessels with which you are provided, & when they are put together, & are properly fitted, stored, and victualled, you are to dispatch one or both of them under the care of proper Officers, with a sufficient number of Petty Officers, Men, & Boats, in order to attempt the said Passage; with such Instructions for their rejoining you, if they should fail, or for their farther proceedings if they should succeed, in the attempt, as you shall judge

most

most proper. But nevertheless if you shall find it more eligible to pursue any other measures, than those above pointed out, in order to make a discovery of the beforementioned Passage (if any such there be) you are at liberty, We leave it to your discretion, to pursue such measures accordingly.

In case you shall be satisfied that there is no Passage through to the abovementioned Bays, sufficient for the purposes of Navigation, you are, at the proper Season of the Year, to repair to the Port of St. Peter & St. Paul in Kamtschatka, or wherever else you shall judge more proper, in order to refresh your People & pass the Winter; and, in

in the Spring of the ensuing Year 1778, to proceed from thence to the Northward as far as, in your prudence, you may think proper, in further search of a North East, or North West Passage, from the Pacific Ocean into the Atlantic Ocean, or the North Sea; and if, from your own Observation, or any information you may receive, there shall appear to be a probability, of such a Passage, you are to proceed as above directed; And, having discovered such Passage, or failed in the Attempt, make the best of your way back to England by such Route as you may think best for the improvement of Geography & Navigation; repairing to Spithead with

with both Sloops, where they are to remain til further Order.

At whatever Places you may touch in the course of your Voyage, where accurate Observations of the nature hereaftermentioned have not already been made, you are, as far as your time will allow, very carefully to observe the true Situation of such Places, both in Latitude and Longitude; the Variation of the Needle; Bearings of Headlands; Height, Direction, & Course of the Tydes & Currents; Depths & Soundings of the Sea; Shoals, Rocks &c.a; and also to survey, make Charts, and take views of, such Bays, Harbours, and different parts of the Coast, and to make

such

such Notations thereon, as may be useful either to Navigation or Commerce. - You are also carefully to observe the nature of the Soil & the produce thereof; the Animals & Fowls that inhabit or frequent it; the Fishes that are to be found in the Rivers or upon the Coast, & in what plenty; And, in case there are any, peculiar to such places, to describe them as minutely, and to make as accurate drawings of them, as you can; And, if you find any Metals, Minerals, or valuable Stones, or any extraneous Fossils, you are to bring home Specimens of each, as also of the Seeds of such Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Roots and

Grains,

Grains, peculiar to those Places, as you may be able to collect, and to transmit them to our Secretary, that proper examination and experiments may be made of them - You are likewise to observe the Genius, Temper, Disposition & Number of the Natives and Inhabitants, where you find any; and to endeavour, by all proper means, to cultivate a freindship with them; making them Presents of such Trinkets as you may have on board, and they may like best; inviting them to Traffick; & shewing them every kind of Civility and Regard; but taking care nevertheless not to suffer yourself to be surprized by

by them, but to be always on your guard against any Accidents.

You are also with the consent of the Natives to take possession, in the Name of the King of Great Britain, of convenient Situations in such Countries as you may discover, that have not already been discovered or visited by any other European Power, & to distribute among the Inhabitants such Things as will remain as Traces and Testimonies of your having been there; But if you find the Countries so discovered are uninhabited you are to take possession of them for His Majesty by setting up proper Marks and Inscriptions as first Discoverers & Possessors.

But for as much as in undertakings of this nature, several Emergencies may arise not to be foreseen, & therefore not particularly to

to be provided for by In-
structions beforehand;
You are, in all such —
Cases, to proceed, as you
shall judge most advan-
tageous to the Service
on which you are em-
ployed.

You are by all
opportunities, to send
to our Secretary, for
our Information, Ac-
counts of your Proced-
ings & Copies of the
Surveys & Drawings
you shall have made;
And upon your arrival
in England, you are
immediately to repair
to this Office in order
to lay before us a full
Account of your Pro-
ceedings in the whole
course of your Voyage;
taking care before you
leave the Sloop to de-
mand from the Officers
& Petty Officers the Log
Books & Journals they
may have kept, & to seal
them up for our Inspec-
tion, & enjoining them,
& the whole Crew, not to
divulge

divulge where they have
been, until they shall
have permission so to do.
And you are to direct
Capt. Clerke to do the
same with respect to
the Officers, Petty Officers,
and Crew of the Discovery.

If any Accident —
should happen to the
Resolution in the course
of the Voyage so as to
disable her from pro-
ceeding any farther,
you are, in such case,
to remove yourself &
her Crew into the
Discovery & to prosecute
your voyage in her,
her Commander being
hereby strictly required
to receive you on board
& to obey your Orders
the same in every respect
as when you were actu-
ally on board the
Resolution; And, in
case of your inability
by sickness or otherwise
to carry these Instruc-
tions into execution,

You

you are to be very care-
-ful to leave them with
the next Officer in com-
-mand who is hereby
required to execute them
in the best manner he
can. Given &c.a the 6th
of July 1776.

2449 (12) after using his utmost efforts, be able to join you according to the Rendez-vous you will leave for him, but to deliver them to you unopened, in case he should join you. I most heartily wish you a successful Voyage, and am with great esteem &c.

G. R. July 1776.

Copy of Secret Instruction for Captain Cook.

Communicate to Rear Admiral Pallisser.

6th July 1776.

Draft of Mr Stephens's Letter to Capt. James Cook, Commander of His Maj.ty Sloop the Resolution at Plymouth.