

APPENDIX No. 63.—*Lieutenant Greeley's answer to Dr. Pavy's letter of March 8, 1883.*FORT CONGER, GRINNELL LAND, *March 9, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of a communication from you regarding the future operations of this command.

The letter was undoubtedly called forth by the prospective departure, on March 10, of a party of six, with dog-sledges, to establish depots on which depends the success of our geographical work in North Greenland.

You recommend therein that the energies of this party be devoted to ensuring such conditions as would facilitate a retreat by boats—a *possible* contingency, but not inevitable as you state it.

The grounds upon which you make this remarkable recommendation are but in part medical, and depend largely on future contingencies, *i. e.*, "the fortunes of war," which *may* disable some member of the party and so encumber our *possible* retreat.

You admit that the health of the party has been better this winter than in 1881-'82, * * * *

This expedition was planned and fitted out solely for the purpose of increasing our knowledge of the Arctic regions. While I have the honor to command it, and as long as I am fit for duty, I shall continue to pursue the object in view.

In assuming charge of this work I considered it important and dangerous. As an American soldier I have yet to learn that any prospective dangers or accident should deter a man from pursuing to his utmost any end which is in the line of one's duty, and instead prepare for a prospective retreat.

To practically abandon it and think only of personal safety, especially at a time when there seem possible discoveries which would be valued by the world and creditable to my country, would be difficult for me even under the most adverse circumstances, but now, under favorable circumstances, would appear dishonorable and unmanly. Could I for a moment listen to such a recommendation, your mention of Kane's name evokes to my *memory* such an example of perseverance under trying and adverse circumstances as would render such action impossible.

Your recommendations will not be followed in this respect.

I am, sir, respectfully yours,

A. W. GREELY,

First Lieutenant, Fifth Cavalry, A. S. O. and Assistant, Commanding.

Acting Assistant Surgeon O. PAVY, *U. S. Army.*

[* * * * * A line and a half which cannot be made out from the letter-press copy.]

APPENDIX No. 62.—*Dr. Pavy's letter of March 8, 1883.*FORT CONGER, GRINNELL LAND, *March 8, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to respectfully submit to you a few considerations that I value of high importance as concerning the future health of, at least, a part of the command, and therefore aliable [liable] to influence the chances of success in a retreat that you consider inevitable.

As exposure and labor, at an early period of the season of 1883 may result in grave impairment of the health; as also, in case of accident of a serious nature, the patients would probably not have recuperated in August, becoming then an encumbrance, threatening to compromise the safety of all, by rendering the departure impracticable, (as in the case of Dr. Kane) I should *earnestly* recommend that no work entailing exposure of more than a night or two in the field should be undertaken during the month of March.

My personal experience, and the risks run last year by our early parties, with the examples of Dr. Kane and Sir George Nares, satisfies [satisfy] my mind as to the dangers to be apprehended from sledging during the month of March.

As medical adviser of the expedition, I consider it my duty to state, that although the health of the command has been better this winter than the previous, it will nevertheless not be submitted with impunity to as much hardship as in 1882. If temporarily, it withstood, it would certainly be at the expense of vital energies that I think of the highest importance, perhaps of necessity to husband, in view of the future work of the fall, in which we will have to contend with contingencies that defeated the efforts of Sir John Ross and the detached party of Dr. Kane's expedition.

I will also, respectfully call your attention while it is still time to the important question of coal; as it would be probably injurious to the general health of the command, even perhaps dangerous, in case of sickness, that we should be left without fuel during the three months previous to our departure.

As to the very important question of foot-gear, I should *earnestly* recommend (considering the insecure state of the mocasins [*sic*] and Labrador Esquimaux boots) that each man employed in any work entailing exposure for several consecutive days should be provided with an extra pair of boots or moccasins, the only appropriate foot-gear at our disposal.

I have the honor to be very respectfully your obt. servant,

To the COMMANDING OFFICER.

Act. Ass. Surgeon OCTAVE PAVY.