



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Archives Center - NMAH*

## **Charles Francis Hall's Expedition Diary Volume III, First Expedition August 1860 - November 1860**

Extracted on Apr-16-2024 07:12:13

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[[boxed]] Never completed - another delivered in its place H. [[/boxed]]

Nov. 1st 1861

Capt. S.O. Budington  
Barque George Henry

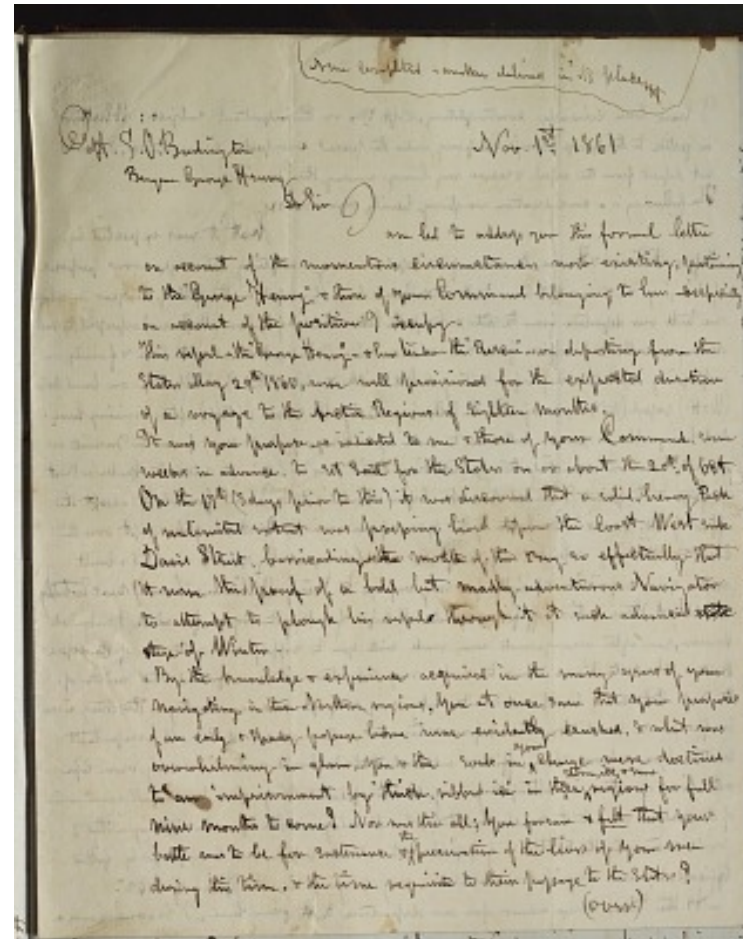
Dear Sir

I am led to address you this formal letter on account of the momentous circumstances now existing, pertaining to the "George Henry" & those of your Command belonging to her - especially on account of the position I occupy.

This vessel - the "George Henry" - & her tender - the "Rescue" - on departing from the States May 29th 1860, were well provisioned for the expected duration of a voyage to the Arctic Regions of Eighteen months. It was your purpose as indicated to me & those of your Command, some weeks in advance, to set sail for the States on or about the 20th of Oct. On the 17th (3 days prior to this) it was discovered that a solid, heavy Pack of unlimited extent was pressing hard upon the Coast West side Davis Strait, barricading the mouth of the Bay so effectually that it were the proof of a bold but madly adventurous Navigator to attempt to plough his vessel through it at such advanced ~~state~~ stage of Winter.

By the knowledge & experience acquired in the many years of your navigating in these Northern regions, you at once saw that your purposes of an early & speedy passage home were evidently crushed, & what was overwhelming in gloom, you & the souls in ~~your~~ your charge were destined to an imprisonment by "thick-ribbed-ice" in these ~~storm, ice & snow~~ storm, ice & snow regions for full nine months to come! Nor was this all; You foresaw & felt that your battle was to be for sustenance & ~~the~~ the preservation of the lives of your men during this time, & the time requisite to their passage to the States!

(over)



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