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A Voyage Towards The South Pole, And Round The World

Performed In His Majesty's Ships the Resolution and Adventure, In the
Years 1772, 1773, 1774, and 1775 ; In Two Volumes

**Cook, James
Furneaux, ...**

London, 1777

Chap. V. Proceedings after leaving Staten Island, with an Account of the
Discovery of the Isle of Georgia, and a Description of it.

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C H A P. V.

Proceedings after leaving Staten Island, with an Account of the Discovery of the Isle of Georgia, and a Description of it.

HAVING left the land in the evening of the 3d, as before-mentioned, we saw it again next morning, at three o'clock, bearing West. Wind continued to blow a steady fresh breeze till six P. M. when it shifted in a heavy squall to S. W., which came so suddenly upon us, that we had not time to take in the sails, and was the occasion of carrying away a top-gallant mast, a studding-sail boom, and a fore studding-sail. The squall ended in a heavy shower of rain, but the wind remained at S. W. Our course was S. E., with a view of discovering that extensive coast, laid down by Mr. Dalrymple in his chart, in which is the Gulph of St. Sebastian. I designed to make the western point of that Gulph, in order to have all the other parts before me. Indeed, I had some doubt of the existence of such a coast; and this appeared to me the best route for clearing it up, and for exploring the southern part of this ocean.

1775.
January.

On the 5th, fresh gales, and wet and cloudy weather. At noon observed in $57^{\circ} 9'$, longitude made from Cape Saint John, $5^{\circ} 2'$, East. At six o'clock P. M., being in the latitude $57^{\circ} 21'$, and in longitude $57^{\circ} 45'$ West, the variation was $21^{\circ} 28'$ East.

At



1775.
January.
Friday 6.

At eight o'clock in the evening of the 6th, being then in the latitude of $58^{\circ} 9'$ South, longitude $53^{\circ} 14'$ West, we close-reefed our top-fails, and hauled to the North, with a very strong gale at West, attended with a thick haze and fleet. The situation just mentioned, is nearly the same that Mr. Dalrymple assigns for the S. W. point of the Gulph of St. Sebastian. But as we saw neither land, nor signs of land, I was the more doubtful of its existence, and was fearful, that by keeping to the South I might miss the land said to be discovered by La Roche in 1675, and by the ship Lion in 1756, which Mr. Dalrymple places in $54^{\circ} 30'$ latitude, and 45° of longitude; but on looking over Danville's Chart, I found it laid down 9° or 10° more to the West; this difference of situation being to me a sign of the uncertainty of both accounts, determined me to get into the parallel as soon as possible, and was the reason of my hauling to the North at this time.

Saturday 7.

Towards the morning of the 7th, the gale abated, the weather cleared up, and the wind veered to the W. S. W., where it continued till midnight; after which it veered to N. W. Being at this time in the latitude of $56^{\circ} 4'$ S., longitude $53^{\circ} 36'$ West, we sounded, but found no bottom, with a line of one hundred and thirty fathoms. I still kept the wind on the larboard-tack, having a gentle breeze and pleasant weather.

Sunday 8.

On the 8th, at noon, a bed of sea-weed passed the ship. In the afternoon, in the latitude of $55^{\circ} 4'$, longitude $51^{\circ} 45'$ West, the variation was $20^{\circ} 4'$ East.

Monday 9.

On the 9th, wind at N. E. attended with thick hazy weather; saw a seal, and a piece of sea-weed. At noon, latitude



55° 12' S., longitude 50° 15' West, the wind and weather continuing the same till towards midnight, when the latter cleared up, and the former veered to West, and blew a gentle gale. We continued to ply till two o'clock the next morning, when we bore away East, and at eight, E. N. E.; at noon, observed in latitude 54° 35' S., longitude 47° 56' West, a great many albatrosses and blue peterels about the ship. I now steered East, and the next morning, in the latitude of 54° 38', longitude 45° 10' West, the variation was 19° 25' East. In the afternoon saw several penguins, and some pieces of weed.

1775.
January.
Tuesday 10.

Wednes. 11.

Having spent the night lying to, on the 12th, at day-break, we bore away, and steered East northerly, with a fine fresh breeze at W. S. W.; at noon observed in latitude 54° 28' S., longitude in 42° 8' West; that is, near 3° East of the situation in which Mr. Dalrymple places the N. E. point of the Gulph of St. Sebastian; but we had no other signs of land than seeing a seal and a few penguins; on the contrary we had a swell from E. S. E., which would hardly have been if any extensive track of land lay in that direction. In the evening the gale abated, and at midnight it fell calm.

Thursday 12.

The calm, attended by a thick fog, continued till six next morning, when we got a wind at East, but the fog still prevailed. We stood to the South till noon, when, being in the latitude of 55° 7', we tacked and stretched to the North with a fresh breeze at E. by S. and E. S. E., cloudy weather; saw several penguins and a snow peterel, which we looked on to be signs of the vicinity of ice. The air too was much colder than we had felt it since we left New Zealand. In the afternoon, the wind veered to S. E., and in the night

Friday 13.



1774.
January.

to S. S. E., and blew fresh; with which we stood to the N. E.

Saturday 14.

At nine o'clock the next morning we saw an island of ice, as we then thought; but at noon were doubtful whether it was ice or land. At this time it bore E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., distant thirteen leagues; our latitude was $53^{\circ} 56' \frac{1}{2}$, longitude $39^{\circ} 24'$ West; several penguins, small divers, a snow peterel, and a vast number of blue peterels about the ship. We had but little wind all the morning; and at two P. M. it fell calm. It was now no longer doubted that it was land, and not ice, which we had in sight. It was, however, in a manner wholly covered with snow. We were farther confirmed in our judgment of its being land, by finding soundings at one hundred and seventy-five fathoms, a muddy bottom. The land at this time, bore E. by S., about twelve leagues distant. At six o'clock the calm was succeeded by a breeze at N. E., with which we stood to S. E. At first it blew a gentle gale, but afterwards increased so as to bring us under double-reefed top-sails, and was attended with snow and fleet.

Sunday 15.

We continued to stand to the S. E., till seven in the morning on the 15th, when the wind veering to the S. E., we tacked and stood to the North. A little before we tacked, we saw the land bearing E. by N. At noon the mercury in the thermometer was at $35^{\circ} \frac{1}{4}$. The wind blew in squalls, attended with snow and fleet, and we had a great sea to encounter. At a lee-lurch which the ship took, Mr. Wales observed her to lie down 42° . At half past four P. M., we took in the top-sails, got down top gallant yards, wore the ship, and stood to the S. W., under two courses. At midnight the storm abated, so that we could carry the top-sails double reefed.

7

At



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T OF THE DISCOVERIES
made in the
TH ATLANTIC OCEAN,
in
STYS SHIP RESOLUTION,
under the Command of
59 CAPTAIN COOK, 59



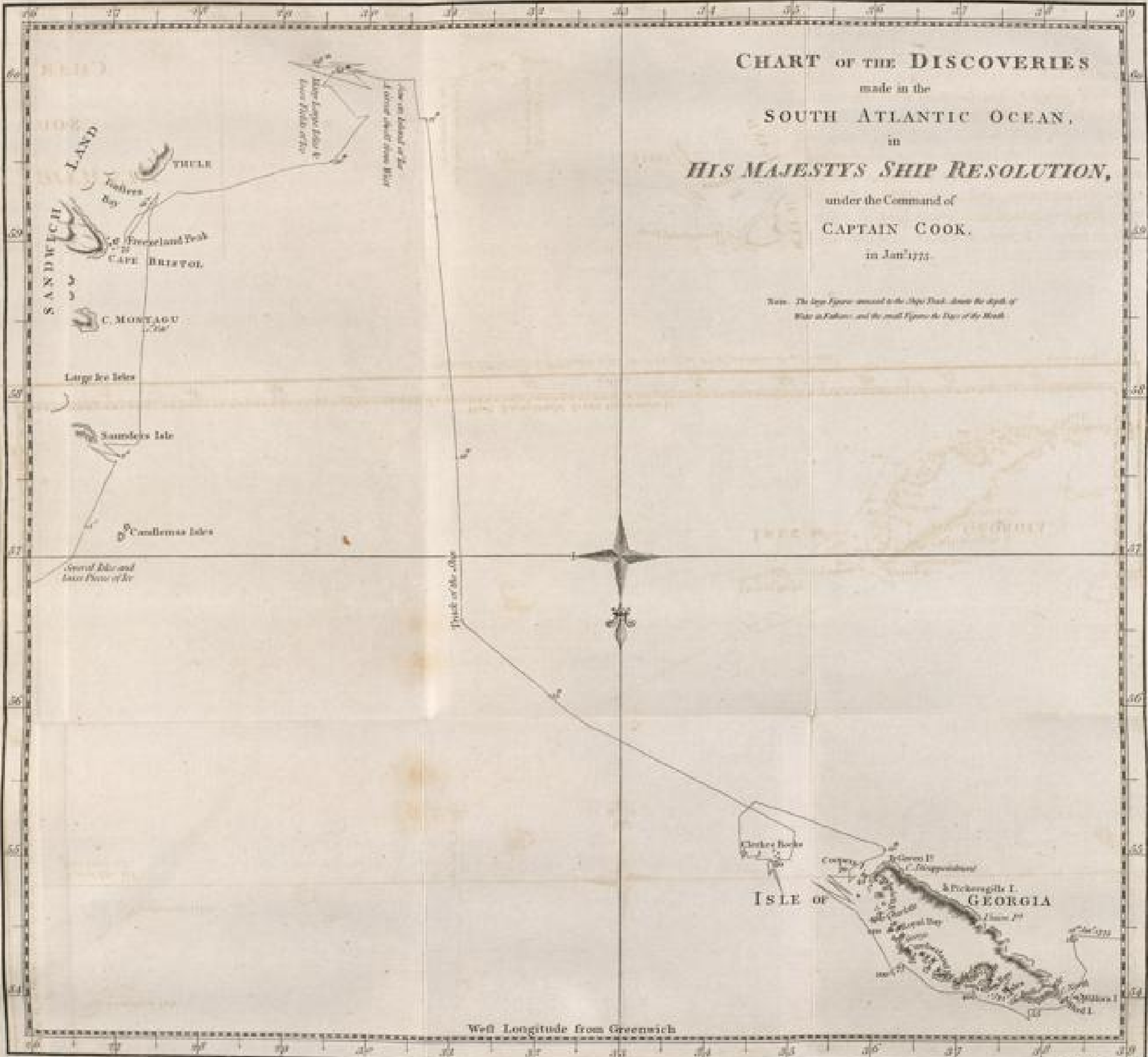


CHART OF THE DISCOVERIES
 made in the
 SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN,
 in
 HIS MAJESTYS SHIP RESOLUTION,
 under the Command of
 CAPTAIN COOK,
 in Jan: 1772

Note. The large Figures annexed to the Ships Track, denote the depth of Water in Fathoms; and the small Figures the Days of the Month.

West Longitude from Greenwich

Published 1777 by W. Smeath in the Strand Street Lane & The Station in the Strand London.

J. Kitchin del.





At four in the morning of the 16th, we wore and stood to the East, with the wind at S. S. E., a moderate breeze and fair; at eight o'clock saw the land extending from E. by N. to N. E. by N; loosed a reef out of each top-sail, got top-gallant yards across, and set the sails. At noon observed in latitude $54^{\circ} 25' \frac{1}{4}$; longitude $38^{\circ} 18'$ West. In this situation we had one hundred and ten fathoms water; and the land extended from N. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. to East, eight leagues distant. The northern extreme was the same that we first discovered, and it proved to be an island which obtained the name of Willis's Island, after the person who first saw it.

1775.
January.
Monday 16.

At this time we had a great swell from the South, an indication that no land was near us in that direction; nevertheless the vast quantity of snow on that in sight, induced us to think it was extensive, and I chose to begin with exploring the northern coast. With this view we bore up for Willis's Island, all sails set, having a fine gale at S. S. W. As we advanced to the North, we perceived another isle lying East of Willis's, and between it and the main. Seeing there was a clear passage between the two isles, we steered for it, and at five o'clock, being in the middle of it, we found it about two miles broad.

Willis's Isle is an high rock of no great extent, near to which are some rocky islots. It is situated in the latitude of 54° S., longitude $38^{\circ} 23'$ West. The other isle, which obtained the name of Bird Isle, on account of the vast number that were upon it, is not so high, but of greater extent, and is close to the N. E. Point of the main land, which I called Cape North.



1775.
January.
Monday 16.

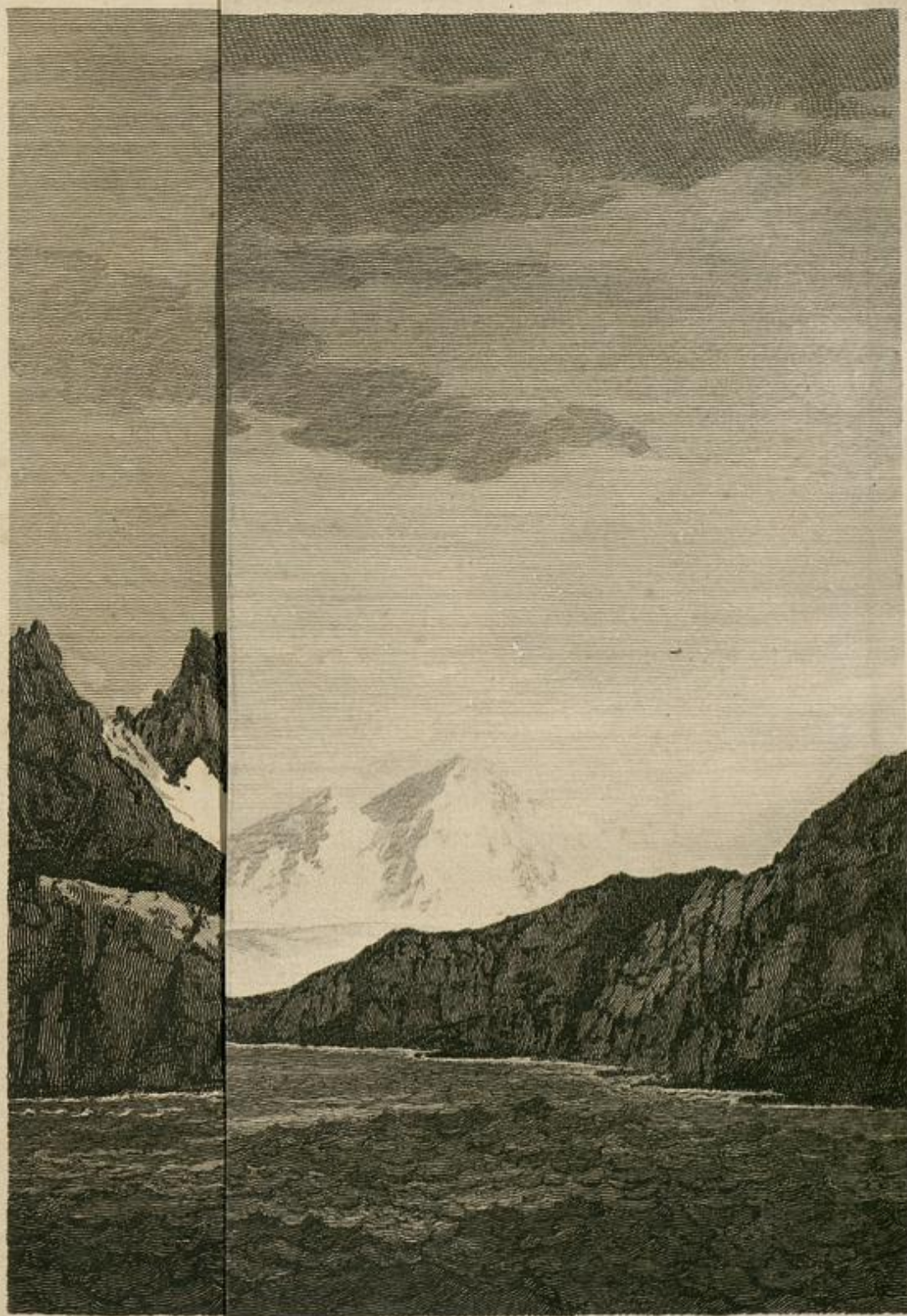
The S. E. coast of this land, as far as we saw it, lies in the direction of S. 50° East, and N. 50° West. It seemed to form several bays or inlets; and we observed huge masses of snow, or ice, in the bottoms of them, especially in one which lies ten miles to the S. S. E. of Bird Isle.

After getting through the passage, we found the North Coast trended E. by N., for about nine miles; and then East and East southerly to Cape Buller, which is eleven miles more. We ranged the coast, at one league distance, till near ten o'clock, when we brought to for the night, and on sounding, found fifty fathoms a muddy bottom.

Tuesday 17.

At two o'clock in the morning of the 17th, we made sail in for the land, with a fine breeze at S. W.; at four, Willis's Isle bore W. by S., distant thirty-two miles; Cape Buller, to the West of which lie some rocky islets, bore S. W. by W.; and the most advanced point of land to the East, S. 63° East. We now steered along shore, at the distance of four or five miles, till seven o'clock, when, seeing the appearance of an inlet, we hauled in for it. As soon as we drew near the shore, having hoisted out a boat, I embarked in it, accompanied by Mr. Forster and his party, with a view of reconnoitring the bay before we ventured in with the ship. When we put off from her, which was about four miles from the shore, we had forty fathoms water. I continued to sound as I went farther in, but found no bottom with a line of thirty-four fathoms, which was the length of that I had in the boat, and which also proved too short to sound the bay, so far as I went up it. I observed it to lie in S. W. by S. about two leagues, about two miles broad, well sheltered from all winds; and I judged there might be good anchorage before some sandy beaches which are on each side, and likewise near a low flat isle, to-
wards





Drawn from Nature by W. Ho

Engrav'd by S. Smith.
N^o XXXIV

ORGIA .

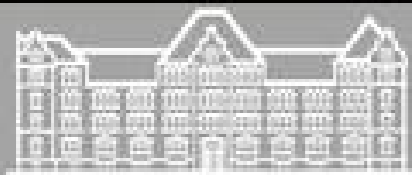


Drawn from Nature by W. Lodge.

POSSESSION BAY IN THE ISLAND OF SOUTH GEORGIA.

Published by W. Colburn in the Strand Street Lane & The Gallery in the Strand, London.

Engraved by R. Smith.
N^o. XXXIV.



LANDES-
BIBLIOTHEK
OLDENBURG



wards the head of the bay. As I had come to a resolution not to bring the ship in, I did not think it worth my while to go and examine these places; for it did not seem probable that any one would ever be benefited by the discovery. I landed in three different places, displayed our colours, and took possession of the country in his Majesty's name, under a discharge of small arms.

1775.
January.
Tuesday 17.

I judged that the tide rises about four or five feet, and that it is high water on the full and change days about eleven o'clock.

The head of the bay, as well as two places on each side, was terminated by perpendicular ice-cliffs of considerable height. Pieces were continually breaking off, and floating out to sea; and a great fall happened while we were in the bay, which made a noise like cannon.

The inner parts of the country were not less savage and horrible. The wild rocks raised their lofty summits, till they were lost in the clouds, and the valleys lay covered with everlasting snow. Not a tree was to be seen, nor a shrub even big enough to make a toothpick. The only vegetation we met with, was a coarse strong-bladed grass growing in tufts, wild burnet, and a plant like moss, which sprung from the rocks.

Seals, or sea bears, were pretty numerous. They were smaller than those at Staten Land; perhaps the most of those we saw were females; for the shores swarmed with young cubs. We saw none of that sort which we call lions; but there were some of those which the writer of Lord Anson's Voyage describes under that name; at least they appeared

to.



1775.
January.
Tuesday 17.

to us to be of the same sort; and are, in my opinion, very improperly called lions; for I could not see any grounds for the comparison.

Here were several flocks of penguins, the largest I ever saw; some, which we brought on board, weighed from twenty-nine to thirty-eight pounds. It appears by Bougainville's account of the animals of Falkland Islands, that this penguin is there; and I think it is very well described by him under the name of First Class of Penguins†. The Oceanic birds were albatrosses, common gulls, and that sort which I call Port Egmont hens, terns, shags, divers, the new white bird, and a small bird like those of the Cape of Good Hope called yellow birds; which, having shot two, we found most delicious food.

All the land birds we saw consisted of a few small larks; nor did we meet with any quadrupeds. Mr. Forster indeed observed some dung, which he judged to come from a fox, or some such animal. The lands, or rather rocks, bordering on the sea-coast were not covered with snow like the inland parts; but all the vegetation we could see on the clear places was the grass above mentioned. The rocks seemed to contain iron. Having made the above observations, we set out for the ship, and got on board a little after twelve o'clock, with a quantity of seals and penguins, an acceptable present to the crew.

It must not, however, be understood that we were in want of provisions: we had yet plenty of every kind; and since we had been on this coast, I had ordered, in addition to the common allowance, wheat to be boiled every morning for breakfast; but any kind of fresh meat was preferred by most on board to salt. For my own part, I was now, for the first

† See Bougainville, English Translation, p. 64.

time,



time, heartily tired of salt meat of every kind; and though the flesh of the penguins could scarcely vie with bullock's liver, its being fresh was sufficient to make it go down. I called the bay we had been in, Possession Bay. It is situated in the latitude of $54^{\circ} 5'$ South, longitude $37^{\circ} 18'$ West, and eleven leagues to the East of Cape North. A few miles to the West of Possession Bay, between it and Cape Buller, lies the Bay of Isles; so named on account of several small isles lying in and before it.

1775.
January.
Tuesday 27.

As soon as the boat was hoisted in, we made sail along the coast to the East with a fine breeze at W. S. W. From Cape Buller, the direction of the coast is S. $72^{\circ} 30'$ East, for the space of eleven or twelve leagues, to a projecting point which obtained the name of Cape Saunders. Beyond this Cape, is a pretty large bay, which I named Cumberland Bay. In several parts in the bottom of it, as also in some others of less extent, lying between Cape Saunders and Possession Bay, were vast tracks of frozen snow, or ice not yet broken loose. At eight o'clock, being just past Cumberland Bay, and falling little wind, we hauled off the coast, from which we were distant about four miles, and found one hundred and ten fathoms water.

We had variable light airs and calms till six o'clock the next morning, when the wind fixed at North and blew a gentle breeze; but it lasted no longer than ten o'clock, when it fell almost to a calm. At noon observed in latitude $54^{\circ} 30'$ South, being then about two or three leagues from the coast, which extended from N. 59° W. to S. 13° West. The land in this last direction was an isle, which seemed to be the extremity of the coast to the East. The nearest land to us being a projecting point which terminated in a round hillock,
was,

Wednes. 18.



1775.
January.
Wednes. 18.

was, on account of the day, named Cape Charlotte. On the west side of Cape Charlotte lies a bay which obtained the name of Royal Bay, and the west point of it was named Cape George. It is the east point of Cumberland Bay, and lies in the direction of S. E. by E. from Cape Saunders, distant seven leagues. Cape George and Cape Charlotte lie in the direction of S. 37° E. and N. 37° West, distant six leagues from each other. The isle above mentioned, which was called Cooper's Isle, after my First Lieutenant, lies in the direction of S. by E., distant eight leagues from Cape Charlotte. The coast between them forms a large bay, to which I gave the name of Sandwich. The wind being variable all the afternoon, we advanced but little; in the night, it fixed at S. and S. S. W., and blew a gentle gale attended with showers of snow.

Thursday 19. The 19th was wholly spent in plying, the wind continuing at S. and S. S. W., clear pleasant weather, but cold. At sun-rise, a new land was seen bearing S. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. It first appeared in a single hill like a sugar-loaf; some time after, other detached pieces appeared above the horizon near the hill. At noon observed in the latitude $54^{\circ} 42' 30''$ S., Cape Charlotte bearing N. 38° West, distant four leagues; and Cooper's Isle S. 31° West. In this situation a lurking rock, which lies off Sandwich Bay, five miles from the land, bore W. $\frac{1}{2}$ North, distant one mile, and near this rock were several breakers. In the afternoon we had a prospect of a ridge of mountains, behind Sandwich Bay, whose lofty and icy summits were elevated high above the clouds. The wind continued at S. S. W. till six o'clock, when it fell to a calm. At this time Cape Charlotte bore N. 31° West, and Cooper's Island W. S. W. In this situation we found the variation, by the azimuths, to be $11^{\circ} 39'$, and by the amplitude,

tude, $11^{\circ} 12'$ East. At ten o'clock, a light breeze springing up at North, we steered to the South till twelve, and then brought to for the night.

1775.
January.

At two o'clock in the morning of the 20th, we made sail to S. W. round Cooper's Island. It is a rock of considerable height, about five miles in circuit, and one mile from the main. At this isle the main coast takes a S. W. direction for the space of four or five leagues to a point, which I called Cape Disappointment. Off that, are three small isles, the southernmost of which is green, low, and flat, and lies one league from the Cape.

Friday 20th

As we advanced to S. W., land opened, off this point, in the direction of N. 60° West, and nine leagues beyond it. It proved an island quite detached from the main, and obtained the name of Pickersgill Island, after my third officer. Soon after, a point of the main, beyond this island, came in sight, in the direction of N. 55° West; which exactly united the coast at the very point we had seen, and taken the bearing of, the day we first came in with it, and proved to a demonstration that this land, which we had taken for part of a great continent, was no more than an island of seventy leagues in circuit.

Who would have thought that an island of no greater extent than this, situated between the latitude of 54° and 55° , should, in the very height of summer, be, in a manner, wholly covered, many fathoms deep, with frozen snow; but more especially the S. W. coast? The very sides and craggy summits of the lofty mountains were cased with snow and ice; but the quantity which lay in the valleys is incredible; and at the bottom of the bays, the coast was terminated by a



1775.
January.
Friday 20.

wall of ice of considerable height. It can hardly be doubted that a great deal of ice is formed here in the winter, which, in the spring, is broken off, and dispersed over the sea; but this island cannot produce the ten-thousandth part of what we saw; so that either there must be more land, or the ice is formed without it. These reflexions led me to think that the land we had seen the preceding day, might belong to an extensive track; and I still had hopes of discovering a continent. I must confess the disappointment I now met with, did not affect me much; for, to judge of the bulk by the sample, it would not be worth the discovery.

I called this land the Isle of Georgia in honour of his Majesty. It is situated between the latitudes of $53^{\circ} 57'$ and $54^{\circ} 57'$ South; and between $38^{\circ} 13'$ and $35^{\circ} 34'$ West longitude. It extends S. E. by E. and N. W. by W., and is thirty-one leagues long in that direction; and its greatest breadth is about ten leagues. It seems to abound with bays and harbours, the N. E. coast especially; but the vast quantity of ice must render them inaccessible, the greatest part of the year; or, at least, it must be dangerous lying in them, on account of the breaking up of the ice cliffs.

It is remarkable that we did not see a river, or stream of fresh water, on the whole coast. I think it highly probable that there are no perennial springs in the country; and that the interior parts, as being much elevated, never enjoy heat enough to melt the snow in such quantities as to produce a river or stream of water. The coast alone receives warmth sufficient to melt the snow, and this only on the N. E. side; for the other, besides being exposed to the cold south winds, is in a great degree deprived of the sun's rays by the uncommon height of the mountains.



It was from a persuasion that the sea-coast of a land situated in the latitude of 54° , could not, in the very height of summer, be wholly covered with snow, that I supposed Bouvet's discovery to be large islands of ice. But after I had seen this land, I no longer hesitated about the existence of Cape Circumcision; nor did I doubt that I should find more land than I should have time to explore. With these ideas I quitted this coast, and directed my course to the E. S. E. for the land we had seen the preceding day.

1775.
January.
Friday 20.

The wind was very variable till noon, when it fixed at N. N. E., and blew a gentle gale; but it increased in such a manner, that, before three o'clock, we were reduced to our two courses and obliged to strike top-gallant yards. We were very fortunate in getting clear of the land, before this gale overtook us; it being hard to say what might have been the consequence had it come on while we were on the north coast. This storm was of short duration; for, at eight o'clock, it began to abate; and at midnight it was little wind. We then took the opportunity to sound, but found no bottom with a line of an hundred and eighty fathoms.

Next day the storm was succeeded by a thick fog attended with rain; the wind veered to N. W., and at five in the morning it fell calm, which continued till eight; and then we got a breeze southerly, with which we stood to the East till three in the afternoon. The weather then coming somewhat clear, we made sail and steered North in search of the land; but, at half past six, we were again involved in a thick mist, which made it necessary to haul the wind, and spend the night making short boards.

Saturday 21.



1775.
January.
Sunday 22.

We had variable light airs next to a calm, and thick foggy weather, till half past seven o'clock in the evening of the 22d, when we got a fine breeze at North, and the weather was so clear that we could see two or three leagues round us. We seized the opportunity, and steered to West; judging we were to the East of the land. After running ten miles to the West, the weather became again foggy, and we hauled the wind, and spent the night under top-fails.

Monday 23.

Next morning at six o'clock, the fog clearing away so that we could see three or four miles, I took the opportunity to steer again to the West, with the wind at East, a fresh breeze; but two hours after, a thick fog once more obliged us to haul the wind to the South. At eleven o'clock, a short interval of clear weather gave us view of three or four rocky islets extending from S. E. to E. N. E., two or three miles distant; but we did not see the Sugar Loaf Peak before mentioned. Indeed, two or three miles was the extent of our horizon.

We were well assured, that this was the land we had seen before, which we had now been quite round; and therefore it could be no more than a few detached rocks, receptacles for birds, of which we now saw vast numbers, especially shags, who gave us notice of the vicinity of land before we saw it. These rocks lie in the latitude of 55° S., and S., 75° E., distant twelve leagues, from Cooper's Isle.

The interval of clear weather was of very short duration, before we had as thick a fog as ever, attended with rain, on which we tacked in sixty fathoms water, and stood to the North. Thus we spent our time involved in a continual thick mist; and, for aught we knew, surrounded by dangerous rocks. The shags and soundings were our best pilots;



pilots; for after we had stood a few miles to the North, we got out of soundings, and saw no more shags. The succeeding day and night, were spent in making short boards; and at eight o'clock on the 24th, judging ourselves not far from the rocks by some straggling shags which came about us, we sounded in sixty fathoms water, the bottom stones and broken shells. Soon after, we saw the rocks bearing S. S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ W., four miles distant, but still we did not see the Peak. It was, no doubt, beyond our horizon, which was limited to a short distance; and, indeed, we had but a transient sight of the other rocks, before they were again lost in the fog.

1775.
January.
Monday 23.
Tuesday 24.

With a light air of wind at North, and a great swell from N. E., we were able to clear the rocks to the West; and, at four in the P. M., judging ourselves to be three or four leagues East and West of them, I steered South, being quite tired with cruising about them in a thick fog; nor was it worth my while to spend any more time in waiting for clear weather, only for the sake of having a good sight of a few straggling rocks. At seven o'clock, we had, at intervals, a clear sky to the West, which gave us a sight of the mountains of the Isle of Georgia, bearing W. N. W., about eight leagues distant. At eight o'clock we steered S. E. by S., and at ten S. E. by E., with a fresh breeze at North, attended with a very thick fog; but we were, in some measure, acquainted with the sea over which we were running. The rocks above mentioned obtained the name of Clerke's Rocks, after my second officer, he being the first who saw them.

CHAP.

