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**A Voyage Round The World, In His Britannic Majesty's  
Sloop, Resolution, commanded by Capt. James Cook,  
during the Years 1772, 3, 4, and 5. By George Forster, ...  
In Two Volumes**

**Forster, George**

**London, 1777**

Chap. III. The second Course towards the high Southern Latitudes; from  
New Zealand to Easter Island.

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NOVEMBER.

## C H A P. III.

*The second course towards the high southern latitudes from New Zealand to Easter Island.*

THE morning after we had taken our departure, we had a N. N. W. wind, which raised the thermometer to 64 deg. The two next days it stood at 54 deg. then at 48; and when we were in about 49° of south latitude, at 44½ deg. On the 28th of November, we observed a number of seals, or perhaps sea-lions, passing by us at a distance towards the land which we had left. From that time to the 6th of December we daily saw great flocks of blue and other petrels, together with the different species of albatrosses, the skuas or grey gulls, many pinguins, and abundance of sea-weed. About seven in the evening, on that day, we were in the latitude of 51° 33' south, and long. 180°; consequently just at the point of the antipodes of London. The remembrance of domestic felicity, and of the sweets of society, called forth a sigh from every heart which felt the tender ties of filial or parental affection. We are the first Europeans, and I believe I may add, the first human beings, who have reached this point, where it is probable none will come after us. A common report prevails indeed in England concerning Sir Francis Drake, who

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who is said to have visited the antipodes, which the legend expresses by "his having passed under the middle arch of "London-bridge:" but this is a mistake, as his track lay along the coast of America, and probably originates from his having passed the *periaci*, or the point in  $180^{\circ}$  long. on the same circle of north latitude, on the coast of California.

Friday 10.

In proportion as we advanced to the southward the thermometer fell; and on the 10th, in the morning, the wind coming more ahead, it descended to  $37^{\circ}$ . At noon we had reached the latitude of  $59^{\circ}$  south, without having met with any ice, though we fell in with it the preceding year on the 10th of December, between the 50th and 51st deg. of south latitude. It is difficult to account for this difference; perhaps a severe winter preceding our first course from the Cape of Good Hope, might accumulate more ice that year than the next, which is the more probable, as we learnt at the Cape that the winter had been sharper there than usual; perhaps a violent storm might break the polar ice, and drive it so far to the northward as we found it; and perhaps both these causes might concur, with others, to produce this effect.

Sunday 12.

On the 11th, at night, the cold encreased, the thermometer standing at 34 deg. and at four o'clock the next morning a large island of floating ice was seen ahead, which we passed an hour afterwards. At eight o'clock the thermometer was already at  $31\frac{1}{2}$  deg. the air being probably refrigerated



frigerated by the ice, though we did not see more than this one piece. At noon we found the latitude to be  $61^{\circ} 46'$  south. The next morning the thermometer stood at  $31$  deg. and we ran to the eastward with a fresh breeze, though we had a surprising fall of snow, which filled the air to such a degree that we could not see ten yards before us. Our friend Mahine had already expressed his surprize at several little snow and hail showers on the preceding days, this phenomenon being utterly unknown in his country. The appearance of "white stones," which melted in his hand, was altogether miraculous in his eyes, and though we endeavoured to explain to him that cold was the cause of their formation, yet I believe his ideas on that subject were never very clear. The heavy fall of snow this day surprized him more than what he had seen before, and after a long consideration of its singular qualities, he told us he would call it the *white rain* when he came back to his country. He did not see the first ice on account of the early hour of the morning; but two days after, in about  $65$  deg. of south latitude, he was struck with astonishment upon seeing one of the largest pieces, and the day following presented him with an extensive field of ice, which blocked up our farther progress to the south, and gave him great pleasure, supposing it to be land. We told him that so far from being land, it was nothing but fresh water, which we found some difficulty to convince him off at first, till we

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shewed him the ice which was formed in the scuttled cask on the deck. He assured us, however, that he would at all events call this the *white land*, by way of distinguishing it from all the rest. Already, at New Zealand, he had collected a number of little slender twigs, which he carefully tied in a bundle, and made use of instead of journals. For every island which he had seen and visited, after his departure from the Society Isles, he had selected a little twig; so that his collection amounted at present to nine or ten, of which he remembered the names perfectly well in the same order as we had seen them, and the white land, or *whennua tètèa*, was the last. He enquired frequently how many other countries we should meet with in our way to England, and formed a separate bundle of them, which he studied every day with equal care as the first. The tediousness of this part of our voyage probably made him so eager to know how it would end; and the salt provisions, together with the cold climate, contributed to disgust him. His usual amusement was to separate the red feathers from the aprons, used in dancing, which he had purchased at Tonga-Tabboo, and to join eight or ten of them together into a little tuft, by means of coco-nut core. The rest of his time he passed in walking on deck, visiting the officers and petty officers, and warming himself by the fire in the captain's cabin. We took this opportunity to improve in the knowledge of his language, and, by degrees, revised the

the



the whole vocabulary which we had collected at the Society Isles. By this method we became possessed of a fund of useful intelligence concerning his country and the adjacent isles, which led us to make many enquiries at our subsequent return to those islands.

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The ice-fields appeared, in different parts of the horizon, about us on the 15th in the morning, so that we were in a manner embayed; and, as we saw no possibility of advancing to the south, we ran to the N. N. E. to get clear of them. The weather, which was already foggy, became thicker towards noon, and made our situation, amidst a great number of floating rocks of ice, extremely dangerous. About one o'clock, whilst the people were at dinner, we were alarmed by the sudden appearance of a large island of ice just a head of us. It was absolutely impossible either to wear or tack the ship\*, on account of its proximity, and our only resource was to keep as near the wind as possible, and to try to weather the danger. We were in the most dreadful suspense for a few minutes, and though we fortunately succeeded, yet the ship passed within her own length to windward of it. Notwithstanding the constant perils to which our course exposed us in this unexplored ocean, our ship's company were far from being so uneasy as might have been expected; and, as in battle the sight of death becomes familiar and often unaffecting, so here, by daily experiencing

\* *i. e.* To go round either with or against the wind.



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such hair-breadth escapes, we passed unconcernedly on, as if the waves, the winds, and rocks of ice had not the power to hurt us. The pieces of ice had a variety of shapes, in the same manner as those which we had observed to the southward of the Indian Ocean; and many pyramids, obelisks, and church-spires appeared from time to time. Their height was not much inferior to that which we had observed among the first islands of ice in 1772; and many likewise resembled them in being of a great extent and perfectly level at top.

The number of birds which we had hitherto met with on our passage, would have persuaded any other voyagers but ourselves of the approach of land. We were, however, so much used to their appearance on the sea at present, as never once to form any expectation of discovering land from that circumstance. Flocks of blue petrels and pintadas, many albatrosses, with now and then a solitary skua had attended us every day; and to these, since our approach to the ice, we could join the snowy and antarctic petrels and the fulmars. However, pinguins, sea-weed, or seals, had not been observed since the 10th.

The weather, which was extremely moist and disagreeably cold, proved unfavourable to the doves and pigeons which many people had purchased at the Society and Friendly Islands, and to the singing-birds which they had been at great pains to catch alive at New Zealand. We had five doves

at



at our departure from this country, all which died one after another before the 16th of December, being much more exposed to the cold in our cabins, than in the sailors births. The thermometer in our cabins was never more than 5 deg. higher than in the open air on deck, and their situation abreast of the main-mast, where the strain of the ship is greatest, exposed them to currents of air, and made them admit water like sieves.

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On the 16th, in the afternoon, and on the 17th, we hoisted out our boats and collected some loose pieces of ice to fill our empty casks with fresh water. The ice which we picked up was old and spongy, and impregnated with saline particles, from having long been in a state of decay; therefore did not afford us very good water, but it was drinkable, particularly if we let the pieces of ice lie on deck for some time, by which means the salt-water was almost entirely drained off. From this time till the 20th we saw no birds about us, which disappeared without any visible cause; but on that day some albatrosses appeared again.

Friday 17.

Having left the ice behind which obstructed our passage, we had gradually advanced to the southward again, that being our principal object, and on the 20th in the afternoon, we crossed the antarctic circle the second time during our voyage. The weather was wet and foggy, ice islands were numerous around us, and the gale was very brisk. Many antarctic petrels, and a whale which spouted up the

Monday 20.

water





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water near us, seemed to indicate our entrance into the frigid zone. At night two seals appeared, which we had not seen for fourteen days past, and gave some faint hopes of seeing land to several of our shipmates; but our course disappointed their expectations, by continuing within the circle as far as  $67^{\circ} 12'$  S. lat. for several days following.

Thursday 23.

On the 23d in the afternoon, we were surrounded with islands of ice, and the sea was in a manner covered with small fragments. The ship was therefore brought to, the boats hoisted out, and a great quantity of good ice taken on board. The birds were at present very numerous about us again, and some antarctic and other petrels were shot and taken up, which we had an opportunity of drawing and describing. About this time many persons were afflicted with violent rheumatic pains, head-aches, swelled glands, and catarrhal fevers, which some attributed to the use of ice-water. My father, who had complained of a cold for several days past, was obliged to keep his bed to-day, having a severe rheumatism with a fever. His complaint seemed rather to arise from the wretched accommodations which he had on board, every thing in his cabin rotting in the wet which it admitted, and being mouldy. The cold was so sensible there this day in particular, that he found only a difference of two degrees and a half between the thermometer there, and that upon the deck.

After



After hoisting in our boats we made sail to the northward, as much as a contrary wind permitted, during all the night and the next day. On the 25th, the weather was clear and fair, but the wind died away to a perfect calm, upwards of ninety large ice-islands being in sight at noon. This being Christmas-day, the captain according to custom, invited the officers and mates to dinner, and one of the lieutenant's entertained the petty-officers. The sailors feasted on a double portion of pudding, regaling themselves with the brandy of their allowance, which they had saved for this occasion some months before-hand, being solicitous to get very drunk, though they are commonly solicitous about nothing else. The sight of an immense number of icy masses, amongst which we drifted at the mercy of the current, every moment in danger of being dashed to pieces against them, could not deter the sailors from indulging in their favourite amusement. As long as they had brandy left, they would persist to keep Christmas "like Christians," though the elements had conspired together for their destruction. Their long acquaintance with a sea-faring life had inured them to all kinds of perils, and their heavy labour, with the inclemencies of weather, and other hardships, making their muscles rigid and their nerves obtuse, had communicated insensibility to the mind. It will easily be conceived, that as they do not feel for themselves sufficiently to provide for their own safety, they must

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must be incapable of feeling for others. Subjected to a very strict command, they also exercise a tyrannical sway over those whom fortune places in their power. Accustomed to face an enemy, they breathe nothing but war. By force of habit even killing is become so much their passion, that we have seen many instances during our voyage, where they have expressed a horrid eagerness to fire upon the natives on the slightest pretences. Their way of life in general prevents their enjoying domestic comforts; and gross animal appetites fill the place of purer affections.

At last, extinct each social feeling, fell  
And joyless inhumanity pervades  
And petrifies the heart.—

THOMPSON.

Though they are members of a civilized society, they may in some measure be looked upon as a body of uncivilized men, rough, passionate, revengeful, but likewise brave, sincere, and true to each other.

At noon the observation of the sun's altitude determined our latitude to be  $66^{\circ} 22'$  south, so that we were just returned out of the antarctic circle. We had scarcely any night during our stay in the frigid zone, so that I find several articles in my father's journal, written by the light of the sun, within a few minutes before the hour of midnight. The sun's stay below the horizon was so very short this night likewise, that we had a very strong twilight all the time. Mahine was struck with the greatest astonishment

ment



ment at this phenomenon, and would scarcely believe his senses. All our endeavours to explain it to him miscarried, and he assured us he despaired of finding belief among his countrymen, when he should come back to recount the wonders of petrified rain, and of perpetual day. The first Venetians who explored the northern extremes of the European continent, were equally surpris'd at the continual appearance of the sun above the horizon, and relate that they could only distinguish day from night, by the instinct of the sea-fowl, which went to roost on shore, for the space of four hours\*. As we were in all likelihood far distant from any land, this indication failed us, and we have often observed numerous birds on the wing about us all the night, and particularly great flocks of different species, so late as eleven o'clock.

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At six in the evening, we counted one hundred and five large masses of ice around us from the deck, the weather continuing very clear, fair, and perfectly calm. Towards noon the next day we were still in the same situation, with a very drunken crew, and from the mast-head observed one hundred and sixty-eight ice-islands, some of which were half a mile long, and none less than the hull of the ship.

Sunday 26.

\* Pietro Quirino failed in April 1431, and was miserably shipwrecked at the isle of Roest or Rusten, on the coast of Norway, under the polar circle, in January 1432.—See Navigazioni et Viaggi raccolti da G. B. Ramusio. Venet. 1574. vol. II. p. 204, 210.



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The whole scene looked like the wrecks of a shattered world, or as the poets describe some regions of hell; an idea which struck us the more forcibly, as execrations, oaths, and curses re-echoed about us on all sides.

Monday 27.

A faint breeze sprung up in the afternoon, with which we made slow advances to the northward, the number of ice islands decreasing in proportion as we receded from the antarctic circle. About four the next morning, we hoisted out our boats, and took in a fresh provision of ice. The weather changed soon after, the wind coming about to the north-eastward, which brought on much snow and fleet. My father, and twelve other persons were again much afflicted with rheumatic pains, and confined to their beds. The scurvy did not yet appear under any dangerous form in the ship, and all those who had any slight symptoms of it, amongst whom I was one, drank plentifully of the fresh wort, quite warm, twice a day, and abstained as much as possible from salt-diet. A general languor and sickly look however, manifested itself in almost every person's face, which threatened us with more dangerous consequences. Captain Cook himself was likewise pale and lean, entirely lost his appetite, and laboured under a perpetual costiveness.

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Saturday 1.

Tuesday 4.

We advanced to the northward as much as the winds would permit us, and lost sight of the ice on the first of January 1774, in  $59^{\circ} 7'$  S. latitude. On the 4th, the  
wind



wind blowing from the westward was very boisterous, and obliged us to keep all our fails double-reefed; the sea ran high, and the ship worked very heavily, rolling violently from side to side. This continued till the 6th at noon, when, having reached  $51^{\circ}$  of S. latitude, we bore away from the wind, to the N. N. E. We were now within a few degrees of the track which we had made in June and July last, in going from New Zealand to Taheitee, and had directed our course towards it, in order to leave no considerable part of this great ocean unexplored. As far as we had hitherto advanced, we had found no land, not even indications of land; our first track had crossed the South Sea in the middle latitudes, or between  $40$  and  $50$  degrees. In our course till Christmas, we had explored the greatest part of it between  $60$  degrees and the antarctic circle; and the present course to the northward had crossed the space between the two former runs. If any land has escaped us, it must be an island, whose distance from Europe, and situation in an uncouth climate cannot make it valuable to this country. It is obvious that to search a sea of such extent as the South Sea, in order to be certain of the existence, or non-existence of a small island, would require many voyages in numberless different tracks, and cannot be effected in a single expedition. But it is sufficient for us, to have proved that no large land or continent exists in the

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Thursday 6.

Z z z z South



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South Sea within the temperate zone, and that if it exists at all, we have at least confined it within the antarctic circle.

The long continuance in these cold climates began now to hang heavily on our crew, especially as it banished all hope of returning home this year, which had hitherto supported their spirits. At first a painful despondence, owing to the dreary prospect of another year's cruize to the South, seemed painted in every countenance; till by degrees they resigned themselves to their fate, with a kind of sullen indifference. It must be owned however, that nothing could be more dejecting than the entire ignorance of our future destination, which, without any apparent reason, was constantly kept a secret to every person in the ship.

Monday 11. We now stood to the north-eastward for a few days, till we came so far as  $47^{\circ} 52'$  south latitude, where the thermometer rose to 52 degrees. On that day, which was the 11th, at noon, the course was directed to the S. E. again, though this frequent and sudden change of climate could not fail of proving very hurtful to our health in general.

Saturday 15. On the 15th the wind increased very much, and in a short time blew a tempestuous gale, which took

———— the ruffian billows by the top

Curling their monstrous heads and hanging them,

With deaf'ning clamours in the slippery shrouds.

SHAKESPEARE.

At nine o'clock a huge mountainous wave struck the ship on the beam, and filled the decks with a deluge of water.

It



It poured through the sky-light over our heads, and extinguished the candle, leaving us for a moment in doubt, whether we were not entirely overwhelmed and sinking into the abyss. Every thing was afloat in my father's cabin, and his bed was thoroughly soaked. His rheumatism, which had now afflicted him above a fortnight, was still so violent as to have almost deprived him of the use of his legs, and his pains redoubled in the morning. Our situation at present was indeed very dismal, even to those who preserved the blessing of health; to the sick, whose crippled limbs were tortured with excessive pain, it was insupportable. The ocean about us had a furious aspect, and seemed incensed at the presumption of a few intruding mortals. A gloomy melancholy air loomed on the brows of our shipmates, and a dreadful silence reigned amongst us. Salt meat, our constant diet, was become loathsome to all, and even to those who had been bred to a nautical life from their tender years: the hour of dinner was hateful to us, for the well known smell of the victuals had no sooner reached our nose, than we found it impossible to partake of them with a hearty appetite.

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Sunday 16.

It will appear from hence that this voyage was not to be compared to any preceding one, for the multitude of hardships and distresses which attended it. Our predecessors in the South Sea had always navigated within the tropic, or at least in the best parts of the temperate zone; they had almost





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almost constantly enjoyed mild easy weather, and failed in sight of lands, which were never so wretchedly destitute as not to afford them refreshments from time to time. Such a voyage would have been merely a party of pleasure to us ; continually entertained with new and often agreeable objects, our minds would have been at ease, our conversation cheerful, our bodies healthy, and our whole situation desirable and happy. Ours was just the reverse of this ; our southern cruizes were uniform and tedious in the highest degree ; the ice, the fogs, the storms and ruffled surface of the sea formed a disagreeable scene, which was seldom cheered by the reviving beams of the sun ; the climate was rigorous and our food detestable. In short, we rather vegetated than lived ; we withered, and became indifferent to all that animates the soul at other times. We sacrificed our health, our feelings, our enjoyments, to the honour of pursuing a track unattempted before. This was indeed as the poet says,

—— propter vitam vivendi perdere causas.      JUVENAL.

The crew were as much distressed as the officers, from another cause. Their biscuit, which had been sorted at New Zealand, baked over again, and then packed up, was now in the same decayed state as before. This was owing partly to the revival, which had been so rigorous, that many a bad biscuit was preserved among those that were eatable, and partly to the neglect of the casks, which had  
not



not been sufficiently fumigated and dried. Of this rotten bread the people only received two thirds of their usual allowance, from œconomical principles; but, as that portion is hardly sufficient, supposing it to be all eatable, it was far from being so when nearly one half of it was rotten. However, they continued in that distressful situation till this day, when the first mate came to the captain and complained bitterly that he and the people had not wherewith to satisfy the cravings of the stomach, producing, at the same time, the rotten and stinking remains of his biscuit. Upon this the crew were put to full allowance. The captain seemed to recover again as we advanced to the southward, but all those who were afflicted with rheumatisms continued as much indisposed as ever.

The first ice islands which we met with on this run were in  $62^{\circ} 30'$  south, on the 20th, but they did not accumulate in number in proportion to our progress, so that we crossed the antarctic circle again on the 26th, without seeing more than a few solitary pieces. On that day we were amused with the appearance of land; for after standing on towards it for some hours, it vanished in clouds. The next day, at noon, we were in  $67^{\circ} 52'$  south; consequently to the southward of any of our former tracks, and met with no ice to stop us. The blue petrels, the little storm petrels, and the pintadas still accompanied us, but albatrosses had left us some time ago. We were now once more in the regions

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regions of perpetual day \*, and had sunshine at the hour of midnight.

Friday 28.

On the 28th, in the afternoon, we passed a large bed of broken ice, hoisted out the boats, and took up a great quantity, which afforded a seasonable supply of fresh water. At midnight the thermometer was not lower than  $34^{\circ}$ , and the next morning we enjoyed the mildest sunshine we had ever experienced in the frigid zone. My father therefore ventured upon deck for the first time after a month's confinement.

We now entertained hopes of penetrating to the south as far as other navigators have done towards the north pole; but on the 30th, about seven o'clock in the morning, we discovered a solid ice-field of immense extent before us, which bore from E. to W. A bed of fragments floated all round this field, which seemed to be raised several feet high above the level of the water. A vast number of icy masses, some of a very great height, were irregularly piled up upon it, as far as the eye could reach. Our latitude was at this time  $71^{\circ} 10'$  south, consequently less than  $19$  deg. from the pole; but as it was impossible to proceed farther, we put the ship about, well satisfied with our perilous expedition, and almost persuaded that no navigator will care to come after, and much less attempt to pass beyond us.

\* In the frozen zone, where the sun remains six months above and six months below the horizon, dividing the year into one long day and night.

Our



Our longitude at this time was nearly  $106^{\circ}$  W. The thermometer here was at  $32^{\circ}$ , and a great many pinguins were heard croaking round us, but could not be seen on account of the foggy weather which immediately succeeded.

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As often as we had hitherto penetrated to the southward, we had met with no land, but been stopped sooner or later by a solid ice-field, which extended before us as far as we could see. At the same time we had always found the winds moderate and frequently easterly in these high latitudes, in the same manner as they are said to be in the northern frozen zone. From these circumstances my father has been led to suppose, that all the south pole, to the distance of 20 degrees, more or less, is covered with solid ice, of which only the extremities are annually broken by storms, consumed by the action of the sun, and regenerated in winter.

————— stat glacies iners  
Menses per omnes. ————— HORAT.

This opinion is the less exceptionable, since there seems to be no absolute necessity for the existence of land towards the formation of ice\*, and because we have little reason to suppose that there actually is any land of considerable extent in the frigid zone.

We ran to the northward with moderate winds till the 5th of February, when we got a fine fresh breeze after a

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Saturday 5.

\* See vol. I. page 95.



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short calm. The day after it shifted to S. E. and freshened so as to blow very hard at night, and split several sails. As it was favourable for the purpose of advancing to the northward, the only circumstance that afforded us comfort, we were far from being concerned at its violence, and in the next twenty-four hours made upwards of three degrees of latitude. The same gale assisted us till the 12th, when we observed the latitude to be  $50^{\circ} 15'$  south, our thermometer being once more returned to the milder temperature of 48 degrees. We were now told that we should spend the winter season, which was coming on apace, among the tropical islands of the Pacific Ocean, in the same manner as we had passed that immediately preceding. The prospect of making new discoveries, and of enjoying the excellent refreshments which those islands afford, entirely revived our hopes, and made us look on our continuance on the western side of Cape Horne with some degree of satisfaction.

A great number of our people were however afflicted with very severe rheumatic pains, which deprived them of the use of their limbs; but their spirits were so low, that they had no fever. Though the use of that excellent prophylactic the four krout, prevented the appearance of the scurvy during all the cold weather, yet being made of cabbage, it is not so nutritive that we could live upon it without the assistance of biscuit and salt-beef. But the  
former



former of these being rotten, and the other almost consumed by the salt, it is obvious that no wholesome juices could be secreted from thence, which might have kept the body strong and vigorous. Under these difficulties all our patients recovered very slowly, having nothing to restore their strength; and my father, who had been in exquisite torments during the greatest part of our southern cruize, was afflicted with tooth-aches, swelled cheeks, fore-throat, and universal pain till the middle of February, when he ventured on deck perfectly emaciated. The warm weather which was beneficial to him, proved fatal to captain Cook's constitution. The disappearance of his bilious complaint during our last push to the south, had not been so sincere, as to make him recover his appetite. The return to the north therefore brought on a dangerous obstruction, which the captain very unfortunately slighted, and concealed from every person in the ship, at the same time endeavouring to get the better of it by taking hardly any sustenance. This proceeding, instead of removing, encreased the evil, his stomach being already weak enough before. He was afflicted with violent pains, which in the space of a few days confined him to his bed, and forced him to have recourse to medicines. He took a purge, but instead of producing the desired effect, it caused a violent vomiting, which was assisted immediately by proper emetics. All attempts however to procure a passage through his bowels were inef-

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fectual; his food and medicines were thrown up, and in a few days a most dreadful hiccough appeared, which lasted for upwards of twenty-four hours, with such astonishing violence that his life was entirely despaired of. Opiates and glysters had no effect, till repeated hot baths, and plasters of theriaca applied on his stomach, had relaxed his body and intestines. This however, was not effected till he had lain above a week in the most imminent danger. Our servant fell ill about the same time with the captain, of the same disorder, and narrowly escaped, but continued weak and unserviceable the greatest part of our cruize between the tropics.

During this time we advanced to the northward very fast, so that on the 22d we reached  $36^{\circ} 10'$  S. latitude, where the albatrosses left us. Our longitude being about  $94\frac{1}{2}$  degrees west from Greenwich, we steered to the south-westward, in quest of a supposed discovery of Juan Fernandez, which, according to Juan Luis Arias, a Spanish author, is said to lie in  $40^{\circ}$  south latitude, and by Mr. Dalrymple's chart in  $90^{\circ}$  west from London\*. We stood on to the westward till the 25th at noon, where being in  $37^{\circ} 50'$  S. and about  $101^{\circ}$  W. and seeing no signs of land, we altered our course something to the northward. The dangerous situation of captain Cook, was perhaps the reason, why our track was not continued farther to the

\* See Mr. Dalrymple's Historical Collection, vol. I. p. 53, and the Chart.

south,



south, so as to put this matter entirely out of doubt for the future. It was indeed of the utmost importance at present, to hasten to a place of refreshment, that being the only chance to preserve his life.

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FEBRUARY.

On the 26th, captain Cook felt some relief from the medicines which had been administered to him, and during the three following days, recovered so far as to be able to sit up sometimes, and take a little soup. Next to Providence it was chiefly owing to the skill of our surgeon, Mr. Patton, that he recovered to prosecute the remaining part of our voyage, with the same spirit with which it had hitherto been carried on. The care and assiduity with which this worthy man, watched him during his whole illness, cannot be sufficiently extolled, as all our hopes of future discoveries, as well as union in the ship, depended solely on the preservation of the captain. The surgeon's extreme attention however, had nearly cost him his own life. Having taken no rest for many nights together, and seldom venturing to sleep an hour by day, he was so much exhausted, that we trembled for his life, upon which that of almost every man in the ship in great measure depended. He was taken ill with a bilious disorder, which was dangerous on account of the extreme weakness of his stomach, and it is more than probable, that if we had not speedily fallen in with land, from whence we collected some slight refreshments, he must have fallen a sacrifice to that rigorous perseverance and  
extreme





1774.  
FEBRUARY.

extreme punctuality with which he discharged the several duties of his profession.

We had easterly winds ever since the 22d of February, which was probably owing to the situation of the sun, still continuing in the southern hemisphere. The weather was warm and comfortable again, the thermometer being at 70 degrees; and some grey terns were seen from time to time, which according to our friend Mahine's account, never went to a great distance from land. On the first of March, some bonitos appeared swiftly swimming past the ship, and the next day, being in 30½ degrees of latitude, we saw tropic birds again.

MARCH.  
Tuesday 1.

The scurvy now appeared with very strong symptoms in the ship, and I was particularly afflicted with it. Excruciating pains, livid blotches, rotten gums, and swelled legs, brought me extremely low in a few days, almost before I was aware of the disorder; and my stomach being very weak, through abstinence from an unwholesome and loathed diet, I could not take the wort in sufficient quantity to remove my complaint. The same case existed with regard to a number of other people, who crawled about the decks with the greatest difficulty.

We had almost calm weather from the 3d to the 6th, the sky was clear, and the warmth and serenity of the weather remarkably pleasing; but we were impatient to proceed to a place



a place of refreshment, and this delay ill suited with our wishes.

1774.  
MARCH.

On the 5th, at night, we saw some towering clouds and a haze on the horizon to the southward, from whence we hoped for a fair wind. Already, during night, we had some smart showers, and at eight o'clock the next morning we saw the surface of the sea curled to the south-eastward, upon which we trimmed our sails, and advanced again with a fair wind. The next morning four large albacores were caught, the least of which weighed twenty-three pounds. They afforded us a most delicious repast, it being now an hundred days since we had tasted any fresh fish. Shearwaters, terns, noddies, gannets, and men of war birds appeared numerous about us, hunting the shoals of flying-fish which our ship, the bonitos, albacores, and dolphins had frightened out of the water.

Monday 7.

We reached the 27th degree of S. latitude on the 8th at noon, and then shaped our course due west in search of EASTER ISLAND, discovered by Jacob Roggewein in 1722, and since visited by the Spaniards in 1770\*, who gave it the name of St. Charles's Island. On the 10th, in the morning, the birds of the grey tern-kind were innumerable about us, whilst we advanced at the rate of seven miles an hour. We lay to during night, being apprehen-

Tuesday 8.

Thursday 10.

\* See Mr. Dalrymple's Historical Collection of Voyages, vol. II. pag. 85; also his letter to Dr. Hawkefworth, 1773.

five



1774.  
MARCH.

five of falling in with the land, which we actually discovered at five o'clock the next morning. The joy which this fortunate event spread on every countenance is scarcely to be described. We had been an hundred and three days out of sight of land; and the rigorous weather to the south, the fatigues of continual attendance during storms, or amidst dangerous masses of ice, the sudden changes of climate, and the long continuance of a noxious diet, all together had emaciated and worn out our crew. The expectation of a speedy end to their sufferings, and the hope of finding the land stocked with abundance of fowls and planted with fruits, according to the accounts of the Dutch navigator, now filled them with uncommon alacrity and cheerfulness.

*E l'uno a' l'altro il mostra, e in tanto oblia*

*La noia, e 'l mal de la passata via.*

TASSO.

We advanced but slowly towards the land by day, to the great disappointment of all on board, who became more eager in proportion as new difficulties arose to prolong their distresses. The land appeared of a moderate height, and divided into several hills, which gently sloped from their summits; its extent did not seem to be considerable, and we were at too great a distance to be able to form any conjecture as to its productions. The next morning we were becalmed within five leagues of the island, which had then a black and somewhat disagreeable appearance. We  
amused



amused ourselves with catching sharks, several of which swam about the ship, and eagerly swallowed the hook, which was baited with salt pork or beef. In the afternoon a breeze sprung up, with which we stood towards the shore, in great hopes of reaching an anchoring-place before night. The land did not look very promising as we advanced, there being little verdure, and scarcely any bushes upon it; but to us who had lingered so long under all the distresses of a tedious cruize at sea, the most barren rock would have been a welcome sight. In our way we perceived a great number of black pillars standing upright, near two hummocks, and in different groups. They seemed to be the same which Roggewein's people took for idols\*; but we guessed already, at that time, that they were such monuments, in memory of the dead, as the Tahitians and other people in the South Seas erect near their burying-places, and call E-TEE.

The wind, which was contrary and very faint, the approach of night, and the want of an anchoring-place on the east side of the island, disappointed us once more, and forced us to pass another night under sail, during which we saw several fires in the neighbourhood of the pillars above-mentioned. The Dutch, who likewise observed them, called them sacrifices to the idols; but it seems to be more probable that they were only lighted to dress the food of the natives.

\* See Mr. Dalrymple's Historical Collection of Voyages, &c. vol. II. p. 91.



1774.  
MARCH.

We passed the night in making several trips, in order to keep to windward of the island and as near it as possible, resolving to pursue our search of anchorage the next day. In the mean time we reflected on the excellent means of ascertaining the longitude, with which our ship had been furnished, and which had carried us exactly to this island, though several former navigators, such as Byron, Carteret, and Bougainville had missed it, after taking their departure from islands at so short a distance from it as those of Juan Fernandez\*. Captain Carteret it seems was only misled by an erroneous latitude in the geographical tables which he consulted; but this could not be the case with the rest. We had the greatest reason to admire the ingenious construction of the two watches which we had on board, one executed by Mr. Kendal, exactly after the model of that made by Mr. Harrison, and the other by Mr. Arnold on his own plan, both which went with great regularity. The last was unfortunately stopped immediately after our departure from New Zealand in June 1773, but the other went till our return to England, and gave general satisfaction. It appears, however, that in a long run the observations of distances of the moon from the sun or stars, are more to be depended upon, if they be made with good instruments, than the watches or time-keepers, which frequently change their rates of going. The method of deducing the longitude

\* Juan Fernandez, properly so called or la de Tierra, and la Mas a fuera.

from



from the distances of the sun and moon, or moon and stars, one of the most valuable acquisitions to the art of navigation, must immortalize its first inventors. TOBIAS MAYER, a German, and professor at Gottingen, was the first who undertook the laborious task of calculating tables for this purpose, for which his heirs received a parliamentary reward. Since his death the method was so much facilitated by additional calculations, that the longitude will perhaps never be determined with greater precision at sea by any other means.

1774.  
MARCH.

The latitude of Easter Island corresponds within a minute or two with that which is marked in admiral Roggewein's own MS. journal \*, and his longitude is only one degree erroneous, our observations having ascertained it in  $109^{\circ} 46'$  west from Greenwich. The Spanish accounts of the latitude are likewise exact, but they err in longitude about thirty leagues.

\* See the Lives of the Governors of Batavia.—It is there expressed  $27^{\circ} 04'$  S. latitude, and  $265^{\circ} 42'$  E. from Tenerif, or  $110^{\circ} 45'$  W. from London.

