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A Voyage To The Pacific Ocean

Undertaken, By The Command Of His Majesty, For Making Discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere. To Determine The Position and Extent of the West Side of North America; its Distance from Asia; and the Practicability of a Northern Passage to Europe. Performed Under The Direction Of Captians Cook, ...

Cook, James

London, 1784

Chap. IV.

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C H A P. IV.

The two Ships leave the Cape of Good Hope.—Two Islands, named Prince Edward's, seen, and their Appearance described.—Kerguelen's Land visited.—Arrival in Christmas Harbour.—Occurrences there.—Description of it.

AFTER the disaster which happened to our sheep, it may be well supposed I did not trust those that remained, long on shore; but got them, and the other cattle, on board as fast as possible. I also added to my original flock, by purchasing two young bulls, two heifers, two young stone-horses, two mares, two rams, several ewes and goats, and some rabbits and poultry. All of them were intended for New Zealand, Otaheite, and the neighbouring islands, or any other places, in the course of our voyage, where there might be a prospect that the leaving any of them would be useful to posterity.

1776.
November.

Towards the latter end of November, the caulkers had finished their work on board the Discovery, and she had received all her provisions and water. Of the former, both ships had a supply sufficient for two years and upwards. And every other article we could think of, necessary for such a voyage, that could be had at the Cape, was procured; neither knowing when, nor where, we might come to a place where we could furnish ourselves so well.

H 2

Having



1776.
November.
Saturday 30. Having given Captain Clerke a copy of my instructions, and an order directing him how to proceed in case of separation; in the morning of the 30th, we repaired on board. At five in the afternoon a breeze sprung up at South East, with which we weighed, and stood out of the bay. At nine it fell calm, and we anchored between Penguin Island and the East shore, where we lay till three o'clock next morning. We then weighed and put to sea, with a light breeze at South; but did not get clear of the land till the morning of the 3d, when, with a fresh gale at West North West, we stood to the South East, to get more into the way of these winds.
- December.
Sunday 1. On the 5th, a sudden squall of wind carried away the Resolution's mizen top-mast. Having another to replace it, the loss was not felt; especially as it was a bad stick, and had often complained.
- Tuesday 3. On the 6th, in the evening, being then in the latitude of $39^{\circ} 14'$ South, and in the longitude of $23^{\circ} 56'$ East, we passed through several small spots of water of a reddish colour. Some of this was taken up; and it was found to abound with a small animal, which the microscope discovered to be like a cray-fish, of a reddish hue.
- Thursday 5. We continued our course to the South East, with a very strong gale from the Westward, followed by a mountainous sea; which made the ship roll and tumble exceedingly, and gave us a great deal of trouble to preserve the cattle we had on board. Notwithstanding all our care, several goats, especially the males, died; and some sheep. This misfortune was, in a great measure, owing to the cold, which we now began most sensibly to feel.
- Friday 6. On the 12th, at noon, we saw land extending from South East by South, to South East by East. Upon a nearer approach,



proach, we found it to be two islands. That which lies most to the South, and is also the largest, I judged to be about fifteen leagues in circuit; and to be in the latitude of $46^{\circ} 53'$ South, and in the longitude of $37^{\circ} 46'$ East. The most Northerly one is about nine leagues in circuit; and lies in the latitude of $46^{\circ} 40'$ South, and in $38^{\circ} 8'$ East longitude. The distance from the one to the other is about five leagues.

1776.
December

We passed through this channel, at equal distance from both islands; and could not discover, with the assistance of our best glasses, either tree or shrub on either of them. They seemed to have a rocky and bold shore; and, excepting the South East parts, where the land is rather low and flat, a surface composed of barren mountains, which rise to a considerable height, and whose summits and sides were covered with snow, which in many places seemed to be of a considerable depth. The South East parts had a much greater quantity on them than the rest; owing, probably, to the Sun acting for a less space of time on these than on the North and North West parts. The ground, where it was not hid by the snow, from the various shades it exhibited, may be supposed to be covered with moss, or, perhaps, such a coarse grass as is found in some parts of Falkland's Islands. On the North side of each of the islands is a detached rock: that near the South island is shaped like a tower, and seemed to be at some distance from the shore. As we passed along, a quantity of sea-weed was seen, and the colour of the water indicated soundings. But there was no appearance of an inlet, unless near the rock just mentioned; and that, from its smallness, did not promise a good anchoring-place.

These



1776.
December.

These two islands, as also four others which lie from nine to twelve degrees of longitude more to the East, and nearly in the same latitude, were discovered, as I have mentioned in my late Voyage *, by Captains Marion du Fresne, and Crozet, French Navigators, in January 1772, on their passage in two ships from the Cape of Good Hope to the Philippine Islands. As they have no names in the French chart of the Southern hemisphere, which Captain Crozet communicated to me in 1775 †, I shall distinguish the two we now saw, by calling them Prince Edward's Islands, after his Majesty's fourth son; and the other four, by the name of Marion's and Crozet's Islands, to commemorate their discoverers.

We had now, for the most part, strong gales between the North and West, and but very indifferent weather; not better, indeed, than we generally have in England in the very depth of Winter, though it was now the middle of Summer in this hemisphere. Not discouraged, however, by this, after leaving Prince Edward's Islands, I shaped our course to pass to the Southward of the others, that I might get into the latitude of the land discovered by Monsieur de Kerguelen.

I had applied to the Chevalier de Borda, whom, as I have mentioned, I found at Teneriffe, requesting, that if he knew any thing of the island discovered by Monsieur de Kerguelen, between the Cape of Good Hope and New Holland, he

* *Captain Cook's Voyage*, Vol. ii. p. 266. These islands are there said to be in the latitude of 48° South; that is, two degrees farther South, than what here appears to be their real position.

† See Cook's Voyage, as above. Dr. Forster, in his *observations made during that voyage*, p. 30, gives us this description of the Chart then communicated by Monsieur Crozet: that it was published under the patronage of the Duke de Croze, by Robert de Vaugondy. Captain Cook tells us lower in this Chapter, that it was published in 1773.

would be so obliging as to communicate it to me. Accordingly, just before we sailed from Santa Cruz bay, he sent me the following account of it, *viz.* " That the Pilot of the " Bouffole, who was in the voyage with Monsieur de Kerguelen, had given him the latitude and longitude of a " little island, which Monsieur de Kerguelen called the " Isle of Rendezvous, and which lies not far from the " great island which he saw. Latitude of the little isle, by " seven observations, $48^{\circ} 26'$ South; longitude, by seven observations of the distance of the Sun and Moon, $64^{\circ} 57'$ " East from Paris." I was very sorry I had not sooner known that there was on board the frigate at Teneriffe, an officer who had been with Monsieur de Kerguelen, especially the Pilot; because from him I might have obtained more interesting information about this land than the situation alone, of which I was not before entirely ignorant*.

1776.
December.

My

* Captain Cook's proceedings, as related in the remaining part of this Chapter, and in the next, being upon a coast newly discovered by the French, it could not but be an object of his attention to trace the footsteps of the original explorers. But no superiority of professional skill, nor diligence in exerting it, could possibly qualify him to do this successfully, without possessing, at the same time, full and authentic intelligence of all that had been performed here by his predecessors in the discovery. But that he was not so fortunate as to be thus sufficiently instructed, will appear from the following facts, which the Reader is requested to attend to, before he proceeds to the perusal of this part of the Journal.

How very little was known, with any precision, about the operations of Kerguelen, when Captain Cook sailed in 1776, may be inferred from the following paragraph of his Instructions: " You are to proceed in search of some islands *said to have been lately* " *seen* by the French in the latitude of 48° South, and in the meridian of Mauritius (a)." This was, barely, the amount of the very indefinite and imperfect information, which Captain Cook himself had received from Baron Plettenberg at the Cape of Good Hope, in November 1772 (b); in the beginning of which year Kerguelen's *first* voyage had taken place.

(a) See the Instructions in the Introduction.

(b) See Captain Cook's Voyage, Vol. i. p. 16.

The



1776.
December.

My instructions directing me to examine it, with a view to discover a good harbour, I proceeded in the search; and
on

The Captain, on his return homeward, in March 1775, heard, a second time, something about this French discovery at the Cape, where he met with Monsieur Crozet, who very obligingly communicated to him a Chart of the Southern Hemisphere, wherein were delineated not only his own discoveries, but also that of Captain Kerguelen (a). But what little information that Chart could convey, was still necessarily confined to the operations of the first voyage; the Chart here referred to, having been published in France in 1773; that is, before any intelligence could possibly be conveyed from the Southern Hemisphere of the result of Kerguelen's second visit to this new land; which, we now know, happened towards the close of the same year.

Of these latter operations, the only account (if that can be called an account, which conveys no particular information) received by Captain Cook from Monsieur Crozet, was, that a later Voyage had been undertaken by the French, under the command of Captain Kerguelen, which had ended much to the disgrace of that commander (b).

What Crozet had not communicated to our Author, and what we are sure, from a variety of circumstances, he had never heard of from any other quarter, he missed an opportunity of learning at Teneriffe. He expresses his being sorry, as we have just read, that he did not know sooner that there was on board the frigate an officer who had been with Kerguelen, as he might have obtained from him more interesting information about this land, than its situation. And, indeed, if he had conversed with that officer, he might have obtained information more interesting than he was aware of; he might have learnt that Kerguelen had actually visited this Southern land a second time, and that the little isle of which he then received the name and position from the Chevalier de Borda, was a discovery of this later voyage. But the account conveyed to him being, as the Reader will observe, unaccompanied with any date, or other distinguishing circumstance, he left Teneriffe, and arrived on the coasts of Kerguelen's Land, under a full persuasion that it had been visited only once before. And even, with regard to the operations of that first voyage, he had nothing to guide him, but the very scanty materials afforded to him by Baron Plettenberg and Monsieur Crozet.

The truth is, the French seem, for some reason or other, not surely founded on the importance of Kerguelen's discovery, to have been very shy of publishing a full and distinct account of it. No such account had been published while Captain Cook lived. Nay, even after the return of his ships in 1780, the Gentleman who obligingly lent his assistance to give a view of the prior observations of the French, and to connect them on the same Chart with those of our Author, though his assiduity in procuring geographical information can be equalled only by his readiness in communicating it, had not, it should seem, been able to procure any materials for that purpose, but

(a) See Cook's Voyage, Vol. ii. p. 266.

(b) Ibid. p. 268.



on the 16th, being then in the latitude of $48^{\circ} 45'$, and in the longitude of 52° East, we saw penguins and divers, and rock-weed floating in the sea. We continued to meet with more or less of these every day, as we proceeded to the Eastward; and on the 21st, in the latitude of $48^{\circ} 27'$ South, and in the longitude of 65° East, a very large seal was seen. We had now much foggy weather, and, as we expected to fall in with the land every hour, our navigation became both tedious and dangerous.

1776.
December.
Monday 16.

Saturday 21.

At length, on the 24th, at six o'clock in the morning, as we were steering to the Eastward, the fog clearing away a little, we saw land*, bearing South South East, which, upon

Tuesday 24.

such as mark the operations of the first French voyage; and even for these, he was indebted to a MS. drawing.

But this veil of unnecessary secrecy is at length drawn aside. Kerguelen himself has, very lately, published the Journal of his proceedings in two successive voyages, in the years 1772 and 1773; and has annexed to his Narrative a Chart of the coasts of this land, as far as he had explored them in both voyages. Monsieur de Pagés, also, much about the same time, favoured us with another account of the second voyage, in some respects fuller than Kerguelen's own, on board whose ship he was then an officer.

From these sources of authentic information, we are enabled to draw every necessary material to correct what is erroneous, and to illustrate what, otherwise, would have remained obscure, in this part of Captain Cook's Journal. We shall take occasion to do this in separate Notes on the passages as they occur, and conclude this tedious, but, it is hoped, not unnecessary, detail of facts, with one general remark, fully expressive of the disadvantages our Author laboured under. He never saw that part of the coast upon which the French had been in 1772; and he never knew that they had been upon another part of it in 1773, which was the very scene of his own operations. Consequently, what he knew of the former voyage, as delineated upon Crozet's Chart, only served to perplex and mislead his judgment; and his total ignorance of the latter, put it out of his power to compare his own observations with those then made by Kerguelen; though we, who are better instructed, can do this, by tracing the plainest marks of coincidence and agreement.

* Captain Cook was not the original discoverer of these small islands which he now fell in with. It is certain that they had been seen and named by Kerguelen, on his second voyage, in December 1773. Their position, relatively to each other, and



1776.
December.

upon a nearer approach, we found to be an island of considerable height, and about three leagues in circuit *. Soon after, we saw another of the same magnitude, one league to the Eastward †; and between these two, in the direction of South East, some smaller ones ‡. In the direction of South by East $\frac{1}{2}$ East, from the East end of the first island, a third § high island was seen. At times, as the fog broke away, we had the appearance of land over the small islands; and I had thoughts of steering for it, by running in between them. But, on drawing nearer, I found this would be a dangerous attempt, while the weather continued foggy. For if there should be no passage, or if we should meet with any sudden danger, it would have been impossible for us to get off; the wind being right a-stern, and a prodigious sea running, that broke on all the shores in a frightful surf. At the same time, seeing another island in the North East direction, and not knowing but that there might be more, I judged it prudent to haul off, and wait for clearer weather, lest we should get intangled amongst unknown lands in a thick fog.

We did but just weather the island last mentioned. It is a highround rock, which was named Bligh's Cap. Perhaps

to the adjoining coasts of the greater land, as represented on the annexed Chart, bears a striking resemblance to Kerguelen's delineation of them; whose Chart, however, the Public may be assured, was unknown in England till after ours had been engraved.

* This is the isle to which Kerguelen gave the name of *Croy* or *Crony*. Besides delineating it upon his Chart, he has added a particular view of it, exactly corresponding with Captain Cook's account of its being of *considerable height*.

† Kerguelen called this *Isle Rolland*, after the name of his own ship. There is also a particular view of it on the French Chart.

‡ The observations of the French and English navigators agree exactly, as to the position of these smaller isles.

§ The situation of Kerguelen's *Isle de Clugny*, as marked on his Chart, shews it to be the *third high island* seen by Captain Cook.

this



this is the same that Monsieur de Kerguelen called the Isle of Rendezvous*; but I know nothing that can rendezvous at it, but fowls of the air; for it is certainly inaccessible to every other animal.

1776.
December.

At eleven o'clock the weather began to clear up, and we immediately tacked, and steered in for the land. At noon, we had a pretty good observation, which enabled us to determine the latitude of Bligh's Cap, which is the northernmost island, to be $48^{\circ} 29'$ South, and its longitude $68^{\circ} 40'$ East †. We passed it at three o'clock, standing to the South South East, with a fresh gale at West.

Soon after we saw the land, of which we had a faint view in the morning; and at four o'clock it extended from South East $\frac{1}{2}$ East, to South West by South, distant about four miles. The left extreme, which I judged to be the Northern point of this land called, in the French Chart of the Southern

* This isle, or rock, was the single point about which Captain Cook had received the least information at Teneriffe; and we may observe how sagacious he was in tracing it. What he could only speak of as *probable*, a comparison of his Chart with that lately published by Kerguelen, proves to be certain; and if he had even read and copied what his predecessor in the discovery says of it, he could scarcely have varied his account of its shape. Kerguelen's words are, "*Isle de Reunion, qui n'est qu'une Roche, nous servoit de Rendezvous, ou de point de ralliement; & ressemble à un coin de mire.*"

† The French and English agree very nearly (as might be expected) in their accounts of the latitude of this island; but the observations by which they fix its longitude, vary considerably.

The Pilot at Teneriffe made it only $64^{\circ} 57'$ East from Paris, which is about $67^{\circ} 16'$ East from London; or $1^{\circ} 24'$ more Westerly than Captain Cook's observations fix it.

Monsieur de Pagés says it is $66^{\circ} 47'$ East from Paris, that is $69^{\circ} 6'$ East from London, or twenty-six miles more Easterly than it is placed by Captain Cook.

Kerguelen himself only says that it is *about* 68° of East longitude, *par* 68° de longitude.



1776.
December.

Hemisphere, Cape St. Louis *, terminated in a perpendicular rock of a considerable height; and the right one (near which is a detached rock) in a high indented point †. From this point the coast seemed to turn short round to the Southward; for we could see no land to the Westward of the direction in which it now bore to us, but the islands we had observed in the morning; the most Southerly ‡ of them lying nearly West from the point, about two or three leagues distant.

About the middle of the land there appeared to be an inlet, for which we steered; but, on approaching, found it was only a bending in the coast, and therefore bore up, to go round Cape St. Louis §. Soon after, land opened off the

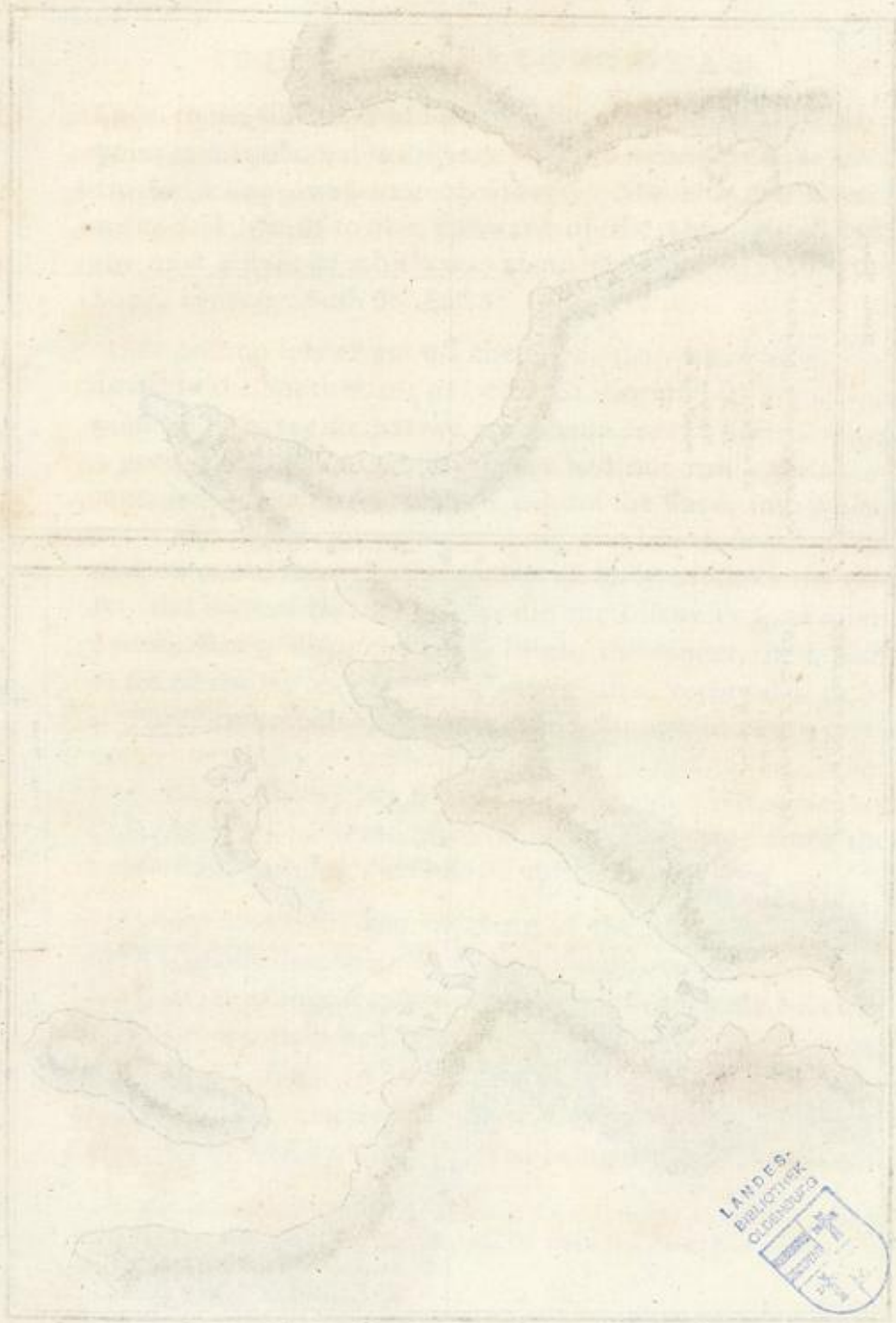
* Hitherto, we have only had occasion to supply defects, owing to Captain Cook's entire ignorance of Kerguelen's second voyage in 1773; we must now correct errors, owing to his very limited knowledge of the operations of the first voyage in 1772. The Chart of the Southern Hemisphere, his only guide, having given him, as he tells us, the name of Cape St. Louis (or Cape Louis) as the most Northerly promontory then seen by the French; and his own observations now satisfying him that no part of the main land stretched farther North than the *left extreme* now before him; from this supposed similarity of situation, he judged that his own *perpendicular rock* must be the Cape Louis of the first discoverers. By looking upon our Chart, we shall find Cape Louis lying upon a very different part of the coast; and by comparing this Chart with that lately published by Kerguelen, it will appear, in the clearest manner, that the Northern point now described by Captain Cook, is the very same to which the French have given the name of Cape François.

† This *right extreme* of the coast, as it now shewed itself to Captain Cook, seems to be what is represented on Kerguelen's Chart under the name of Cape Aubert. It may be proper to observe here, that all that extent of coast lying between Cape Louis and Cape François, of which the French saw very little during their first visit in 1772, and may be called the North West side of this land, they had it in their power to trace the position of in 1773, and have assigned names to some of its bays, rivers, and promontories, upon their Chart.

‡ Kerguelen's Isle de Clugny.

§ Cape François, as already observed.

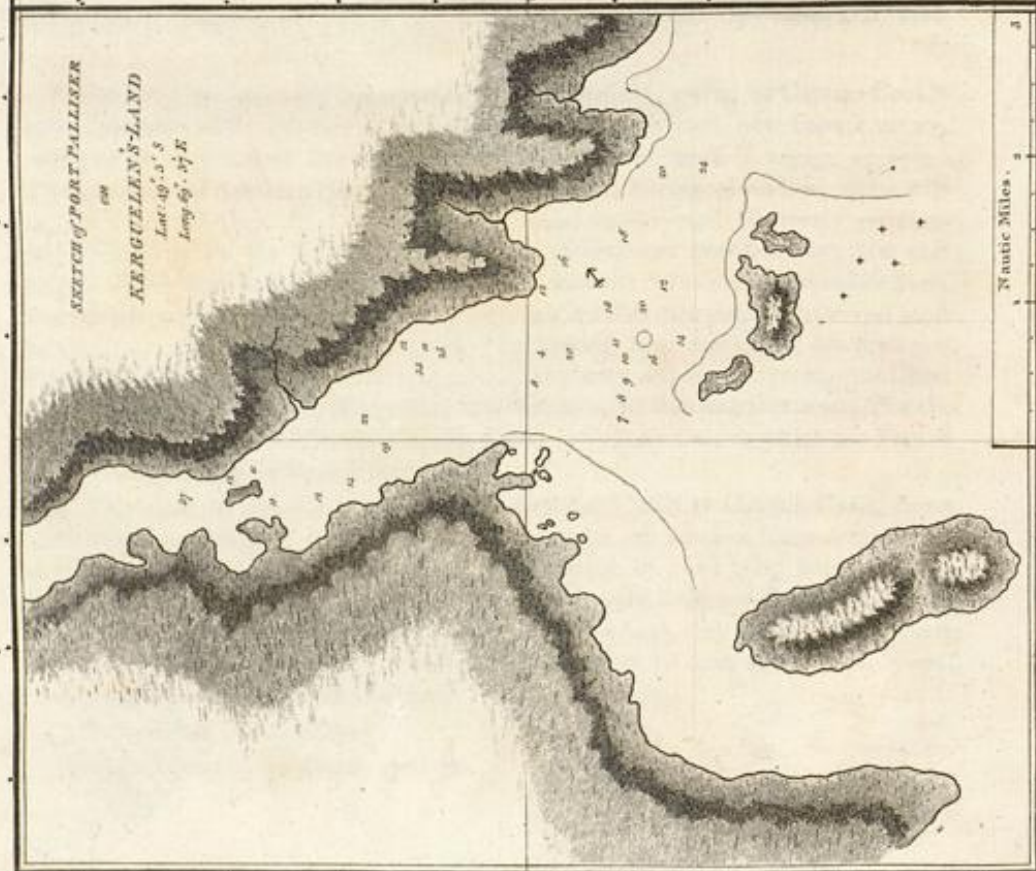
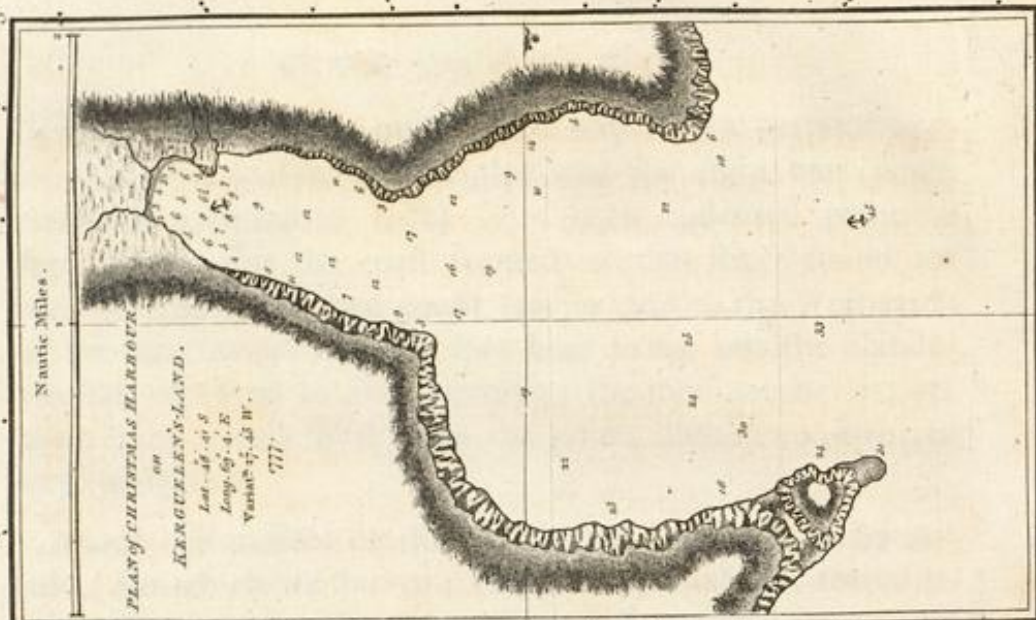




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Cape, in the direction of South 53° East, and appeared to be a point at a considerable distance; for the trending of the coast from the Cape was more Southerly. We also saw several rocks and islands to the Eastward of the above directions, the most distant of which was about seven leagues from the Cape, bearing South 88° East*.

1776.
December.

We had no sooner got off the Cape, than we observed the coast, to the Southward, to be much indented by projecting points and bays; so that we now made sure of soon finding a good harbour. Accordingly, we had not run a mile farther, before we discovered one behind the Cape, into which we began to ply; but after making one board, it fell calm, and we anchored at the entrance in forty-five fathoms water, the bottom black sand; as did the Discovery soon after. I immediately dispatched Mr. Bligh, the Master, in a boat to sound the harbour; who, on his return, reported it to be safe and commodious, with good anchorage in every part; and great plenty of fresh water, seals, penguins, and other birds on the shore; but not a stick of wood. While we lay at anchor, we observed that the flood tide came from the South East, running two knots, at least, in an hour.

At day-break, in the morning of the 25th, we weighed with a gentle breeze at West; and having wrought into the harbour, to within a quarter of a mile of the sandy beach at its head, we anchored in eight fathoms water, the bottom a fine dark sand. The Discovery did not get in till two o'clock in the afternoon; when Captain Clerke informed me, that he had narrowly escaped being driven on the South

Wednes. 25.

* The observations of the French, round Cape François, remarkably coincide with Captain Cook's in this paragraph; and the rocks and islands here mentioned by him, also appear upon their Chart.

point



1776.
December.

point of the harbour, his anchor having started before they had time to shorten in the cable. This obliged them to set sail, and drag the anchor after them, till they had room to heave it up; and then they found one of its palms was broken off.

As soon as we had anchored, I ordered all the boats to be hoisted out; the ship to be moored with a kedge anchor; and the water-casks to be got ready to send on shore. In the mean time I landed, to look for the most convenient spot where they might be filled, and to see what else the place afforded.

I found the shore, in a manner, covered with penguins and other birds, and seals. These latter were not numerous, but so insensible of fear (which plainly indicated that they were unaccustomed to such visitors), that we killed as many as we chose, for the sake of their fat or blubber, to make oil for our lamps, and other uses. Fresh water was in no less plenty than were birds; for every gully afforded a large stream. But not a single tree or shrub, nor the least sign of any, was to be discovered, and but very little herbage of any sort. The appearances, as we sailed into the harbour, had flattered us with the hope of meeting with something considerable growing here, as we observed the sides of many of the hills to be of a lively green. But I now found that this was occasioned by a single plant, which, with the other natural productions, shall be described in another place. Before I returned to my ship, I ascended the first ridge of rocks, which rise in a kind of amphitheatre above one another. I was in hopes, by this means, of obtaining a view of the country; but before I reached the top, there came on so thick a fog, that I could hardly find



my way down again. In the evening, we hauled the seine at the head of the harbour, but caught only half a dozen small fish. We had no better success next day, when we tried with hook and line. So that our only resource here, for fresh provisions, were birds, of which there was an inexhaustible store.

1776.
December.

The morning of the 26th proved foggy, with rain. However, we went to work to fill water, and to cut grass for our cattle, which we found in small spots near the head of the harbour. The rain which fell, swelled all the rivulets to such a degree, that the sides of the hills, bounding the harbour, seemed to be covered with a sheet of water. For the rain, as it fell, run into the fissures and crags of the rocks that composed the interior parts of the hills, and was precipitated down their sides in prodigious torrents. Thursday 26.

The people having wrought hard the two preceding days, and nearly completed our water, which we filled from a brook at the left corner of the beach, I allowed them the 27th as a day of rest, to celebrate Christmas. Upon this indulgence, many of them went on shore, and made excursions, in different directions, into the country, which they found barren and desolate in the highest degree. In the evening, one of them brought to me a quart bottle which he had found, fastened with some wire to a projecting rock on the North side of the harbour. This bottle contained a piece of parchment, on which was written the following inscription: Friday 27.

Ludovico



1776.
December.

A VOYAGE TO

*Ludovico XV Galliarum
rege, et d.* de Boynes
regi a Secretis ad res
maritimas annis 1772 et
1773.*

From this inscription, it is clear, that we were not the first Europeans who had been in this harbour. I supposed it to be left by Monsieur de Boisguchenneu, who went on shore in a boat on the 13th of February 1772, the same day that Monsieur de Kerguelen discovered this land; as appears by a Note in the French Chart of the Southern Hemisphere, published the following year †.

As

* The (*d*), no doubt is a contraction of the word *Domino*. The French Secretary of the Marine was then Monsieur de Boynes.

† On perusing this paragraph of the Journal, it will be natural to ask, How could Monsieur de Boisguchenneu, in the beginning of 1772, leave an inscription, which, upon the very face of it, commemorates a transaction of the following year? Captain Cook's manner of expressing himself here, strongly marks, that he made this supposition, only for want of information to enable him to make any other. He had no idea that the French had visited this land a second time; and, reduced to the necessity of trying to accommodate what he saw himself, to what little he had heard of their proceedings, he confounds a transaction which we, who have been better instructed, know, for a certainty, belongs to the second Voyage, with a similar one, which his Chart of the Southern Hemisphere has recorded, and which happened in a different year, and at a different place.

The bay, indeed, in which Monsieur de Boisguchenneu landed, is upon the West side of this land, considerably to the South of Cape Louis, and not far from another more Southerly promontory, called Cape Bourbon; a part of the coast which our ships were not upon. Its situation is marked upon our Chart; and a particular view of the bay *du Lion Marin* (for so Boisguchenneu called it), with the soundings, is preserved by Kerguelen.

But if the bottle and inscription found by Captain Cook's people, were not left here by Boisguchenneu, by whom and when were they left? This we learn most satisfactorily, from the accounts of Kerguelen's second Voyage, as published by himself and Monsieur de Pagés, which present us with the following particulars: That they arrived on the West side of this land on the 14th of December 1773; that, steering to the

North



As a memorial of our having been in this harbour, I wrote on the other side of the parchment,

1776.
December.

North East, they discovered, on the 16th, the *Ile de Reunion*, and the other small islands as mentioned above; that, on the 17th, they had before them the principal land (which they were sure was connected with that seen by them on the 14th), and a high point of that land, named by them Cape François; that beyond this Cape, the coast took a South Easterly direction, and behind it they found a bay, called by them *Baie de l'Oiseau*, from the name of their frigate; that they then endeavoured to enter it, but were prevented by contrary winds and blowing weather, which drove them off the coast Eastward; but that, at last, on the 6th of January, Monsieur de Roynet, Captain of the *Oiseau*, was able to send his boat on shore into this bay, under the command of Monsieur de Rochegude, one of his officers, *who took possession of that bay, and of all the country, in the name of the King of France, with all the requisite formalities.*"

Here then we trace, by the most unexceptionable evidence, the history of the bottle and inscription; the leaving of which was, no doubt, one of the requisite formalities observed by Monsieur de Rochegude on this occasion. And though he did not land till the 6th of January 1774, yet, as Kerguelen's ships arrived upon the coast on the 14th of December 1773, and had discovered and looked into this very bay on the 17th of that month, it was with the strictest propriety and truth that 1773, and not 1774, was mentioned as the date of the discovery.

We need only look at Kerguelen's and Cook's Charts, to judge that the *Baie de l'Oiseau*, and the harbour where the French inscription was found, is one and the same place. But besides this agreement as to the general position, the same conclusion results more decisively still, from another circumstance worth mentioning: The French, as well as the English visitors of this bay and harbour, have given us a particular Plan of it; and whoever compares ours, published in this Volume, with that to be met with in Kerguelen's and de Pagés's *Voyages*, must be struck with a resemblance that could only be produced by copying one common original with fidelity. Nay, even the soundings are the same upon the same spots in both Plans, being forty-five fathoms between the two Capes, before the entrance of the bay; sixteen fathoms farther in, where the shores begin to contract; and eight fathoms up, near the bottom of the harbour.

To these particulars, which throw abundant light on this part of our Author's Journal, I shall only add, that the distance of our harbour from that where Boisgouhenne landed in 1772, is forty leagues. For this we have the authority of Kerguelen, in the following passage: "Monsieur de Boisgouhenne descendit le 13 de
"Fevrier 1772, dans un baie, qu'il nomme Baie du Lion Marin, & prit possession
"de cette terre au nom de Roi; il n'y vit aucune trace d'habitants. Monsieur de
"Rochegude, en 1774, a descendu dans un autre baie, que nous avons nommé
"Baie de l'Oiseau, & cette seconde rade est à quarantes lieues de la premiere.
"Il en a également pris possession, & il n'y trouva également aucune trace d'habitants."
Kerguelen, p. 92.



1776.
December.

A VOYAGE TO

*Naves Resolution**et Discovery**de Rege Magnæ Britannicæ,**Decembris 1776.*

Saturday 28.

I then put it again into a bottle, together with a silver two-penny piece of 1772; and having covered the mouth of the bottle with a leaden cap, I placed it, the next morning, in a pile of stones erected for the purpose, upon a little eminence on the North shore of the harbour, and near to the place where it was first found; in which position it cannot escape the notice of any European, whom chance or design may bring into this port. Here I displayed the British flag, and named the place *Christmas Harbour*, from our having arrived in it on that festival.

It is the first, or northernmost inlet that we meet with on the South East side of Cape St. Louis *, which forms the North side of the harbour, and is also the Northern point of this land. The situation alone is sufficient to distinguish it from any of the other inlets; and, to make it more remarkable, its South point terminates in a high rock, which is perforated quite through, so as to appear like the arch of a bridge. We saw none like this upon the whole coast †. The harbour has another distinguishing mark within, from a
single

* Cape François, for reasons already assigned.

† If there could be the least doubt remaining of the identity of the Baie de l'Oiseau, and Christmas harbour, the circumstance of the perforated rock, which divides it from another bay to the South, would amount to a strict demonstration. For Monsieur de Pagés had observed this discriminating mark before Captain Cook. His words are as follows: "L'on vit que la cote de l'Est, voisine du Cap François, avoit deux baies; elles étoient séparées par une pointe très-reconnoissable par sa forme, qui representoit une porte cochere, au travers de laquelle l'on voyoit le jour." Voyages du M. de Pagés, Vol. ii. p. 67. Every one knows how exactly the form of a *porte cochere*, or arched gateway,

single stone or rock, of a vast size, which lies on the top of a hill on the South side, near its bottom; and opposite this, on the North side, there is another hill, much like it, but smaller. There is a small beach at its bottom, where we commonly landed; and, behind it, some gently rising ground; on the top of which is a large pool of fresh water. The land on both sides of the inlet is high, and it runs in West, and West North West, about two miles. Its breadth is one mile and a quarter, for more than half its length; above which, it is only half a mile. The depth of water, which is forty-five fathoms at the entrance, varies, as we proceed farther in, from thirty, to five and four fathoms, as marked upon the Plan. The shores are steep; and the bottom is every where a fine dark sand, except in some places close to the shore, where there are beds of sea-weed, which always grows on rocky ground. The head of the harbour lies open only to two points of the compass; and even these are covered by islands in the offing, so that no sea can fall in to hurt a ship. The appearances on shore confirmed this; for we found grass growing close to high-water mark, which is a sure sign of a pacific harbour*.

1776.
December.

It

gateway, corresponds with that of the arch of a bridge. It is very satisfactory to find the two navigators, neither of whom knew any thing of the other's description, adopting the same idea; which both proves that they had the same uncommon object before their eyes, and that they made an accurate report.

* In the last Note, we saw how remarkably Monsieur de Pagés and Captain Cook agree about the appearance of the South Point of the harbour; I shall here subjoin another quotation from the former, containing his account of the harbour itself, in which the Reader may trace the same distinguishing features observed by Captain Cook in the foregoing paragraph.

“ Le 6, l'on mit à terre dans la premiere baie à l'Est du Cap François, & l'on prit possession de ces contrées. Ce mouillage consiste en un petite rade, qui a environ quatre encablures, ou quatre cents toises de profondeur, sur un tiers en sus de lar-

K 2

“ geur.



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It is high-water here, at the full and change days, about ten o'clock; and the tide rises and falls about four feet.

After I had finished this business of the inscription, I went in my boat round the harbour, and landed in several places, to examine what the shore afforded; and, particularly, to look for drift wood. For, although the land here was totally destitute of trees, this might not be the case in other parts; and if there were any, the torrents would force some, or, at least, some branches, into the sea, which would afterward throw them upon the shores; as in all other countries where there is wood, and in many where there is none: but, throughout the whole extent of the harbour, I found not a single piece.

In the afternoon, I went upon Cape St. Louis *, accompanied by Mr. King, my Second Lieutenant. I was in hopes, from this elevation, to have had a view of the sea-coast, and of the islands lying off it. But, when I got up, I found every distant object below me hid in a thick fog. The land on the same plain, or of a greater height, was visible enough, and appeared naked and desolate in the highest

“ geur. En dedans de cette rade est un petit port, dont l'entrée, de quatre enca-
 “ blures de largeur, présente au Sud-Est. La sonde de la petite rade est depuis qua-
 “ rante-cinq jusqu'à trente brasses; et celle du port depuis seize jusqu'à huit. Le
 “ fond des deux est de sable noir et vaseux. La côte des deux bords est haute, & par
 “ une pente très rude; elle est couverte de verdure, & il y a une quantité prodigieuse
 “ d'Outardes. Le fond du port est occupé par un monticule qui laisse entre lui, et
 “ la mer une plage de sable. Une petite riviere, de très bonne eau, coule à la mer
 “ dans cet endroit; & elle est fournie par un lac qui est un peu au loin, au dessus du
 “ monticule. Il y avoit sur le plage beaucoup de pingouins & de lions marins. Ces
 “ deux especes d'animaux ne fuyoient pas, & l'on augura que le pays n'étoit point
 “ habité; la terre rapportoit de l'herbe large, noire, & bien nourrie, qui n'avoit ce-
 “ pendant que cinq ou six pouces ou plus de hauteur. L'on ne vit aucun arbre, ni signe
 “ d'habitation.” *Voyage du Monsieur de Pagés, Tom. ii. p. 69, 70.*

* Cape François.

degree;



degree; except some hills to the Southward, which were covered with snow.

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When I got on board, I found the launch hoisted in, the ships unmoored, and ready to put to sea; but our sailing was deferred till five o'clock the next morning, when we weighed anchor. Sunday 29.

C H A P.

