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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. V.

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C H A P. V.

Departure from Christmas Harbour.—Range along the Coast, to discover its Position and Extent.—Several Promontories and Bays, and a Peninsula, described and named.—Danger from Shoals.—Another Harbour and a Sound.—Mr. Anderson's Observations on the natural Productions, Animals, Soil, &c. of Kerguelen's Land.

1776.
December.
Sunday 29.

AS soon as the ships were out of Christmas Harbour, we steered South East $\frac{1}{2}$ South, along the coast, with a fine breeze at North North West, and clear weather. This we thought the more fortunate, as, for some time past, fogs had prevailed, more or less, every day; and the continuance of them would have defeated our plan of extending Kerguelen's discovery. We kept the lead constantly going; but seldom struck ground with a line of fifty or sixty fathoms.

About seven or eight o'clock, we were off a promontory, which I called Cape Cumberland. It lies a league and a half from the South point of Christmas Harbour, in the direction of South East $\frac{1}{2}$ South. Between them is a bay with two arms, both of which seemed to afford good shelter for shipping. Off Cape Cumberland is a small but pretty high island, on the summit of which is a rock like a sentry-box, which occasioned our giving that name to the island. Two miles farther to the Eastward, lies a groupe of small



small islands and rocks, with broken ground about them: we sailed between these and Sentry-Box Island, the channel being a full mile broad, and more than forty fathoms deep; for we found no bottom with that length of line.

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Being through this channel, we discovered, on the South side of Cape Cumberland, a bay, running in three leagues to the Westward. It is formed by this Cape to the North, and by a promontory to the South, which I named Point Pringle, after my good friend Sir John Pringle, President of the Royal Society. The bottom of this bay was called Cumberland Bay; and it seemed to be disjoined from the sea, which washes the North West coast of this country, by a narrow neck of land. Appearances, at least, favoured such a conjecture.

To the Southward of Point Pringle, the coast is formed into a fifth bay; of which this point is the Northern extreme; and from it, to the Southern extreme, is about four miles in the direction of South South East $\frac{1}{2}$ East. In this bay, which obtained the Name of White Bay, on account of some white spots of land or rocks in the bottom of it, are several lesser bays or coves, which seemed to be sheltered from all winds. Off the South point, are several rocks which raise their heads above water; and, probably, many more that do not.

Thus far our course was in a direction parallel to the coast, and not more than two miles from it. Thither our glasses were continually pointed; and we could easily see that, except the bottoms of the bays and coves, which, for the most part, terminated in sandy beaches, the shores were rocky, and, in many places, swarmed with birds; but the

country



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country had the same barren and naked appearance as in the neighbourhood of Christmas Harbour.

We had kept on our larboard bow, the land which first opened off Cape St. Louis*, in the direction of South 53° East, thinking that it was an island, and that we should find a passage between it and the main. We now discovered this to be a mistake; and found that it was a peninsula, joined to the rest of the coast by a low isthmus. I called the bay, formed by this peninsula, Repulse Bay; and a branch of it seemed to run a good way inland towards the South South West. Leaving this, we steered for the Northern point of the peninsula, which we named Howe's Foreland, in honour of Admiral Lord Howe.

As we drew near it, we perceived some rocks and breakers near the North West part; and two islands a league and a half to the Eastward of it, which, at first, appeared as one. I steered between them and the Foreland †, and was in the middle of the channel by noon. At that time our latitude, by observation, was 48° 51' South; and we had made twenty-six miles of East longitude from Cape St. Louis ‡.

From this situation, the most advanced land to the Southward bore South East; but the trending of the coast from the Foreland was more Southerly. The islands which lie

* Cape François.

† Though Kerguelen's ships, in 1773, did not venture to explore this part of the coast, Monsieur de Pagés's account of it answers well to Captain Cook's. "Du 17 au 23, l'on ne prit d'autre connoissance que celle de la figure de la cote, qui, courant d'abord au Sud-Est, & revenant ensuite au Nord-Est, formoit un grand golfe. Il étoit occupé par des brisans & des rochers; il avoit aussi une isle basse, & assez étendue, & l'on usa d'une bien soigneuse precaution, pour ne pas s'affaler dans ce golfe." *Voyage du M. de Pagés*, Tom. ii. p. 67.

‡ Cape François.



off Christmas Harbour bore North; and the North point of the Foreland, North 60° West, distant three miles. The land of this Peninsula, or Foreland, is of a moderate height, and of a hilly and rocky substance. The coast is low, with rocky points shooting out from it; between which points are little coves, with sandy beaches; and these, at this time, were mostly covered with sea birds. We also saw upon them some seals.

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As soon as we were clear of the rocks and islands before mentioned, I gave orders to steer South East by South, along the coast. But before these orders could be carried into execution, we discovered the whole sea before us to be chequered with large beds of rock-weed, which we knew to be fast to the bottom, and to grow on rocky shoals. I had often found a great depth of water on such shoals; and I had, as often, found rocks that have raised their heads nearly to the surface of the water. It is always dangerous, therefore, to sail over them before they are well examined; but more especially, when there is no surge of the sea to discover the danger. This was the case at present, for the sea was as smooth as a mill-pond. Consequently we endeavoured to avoid them, by steering through the winding channels by which they were separated. We kept the lead continually going; but never struck ground with a line of sixty fathoms. This circumstance increased the danger, as we could not anchor, whatever necessity there might be for it. After running in this manner above an hour, we discovered a lurking rock, just even with the surface of the sea. It bore North East $\frac{1}{4}$ East, distant three or four miles, and lay in the middle of one of these large beds of weeds. This was a sufficient warning to make us use every precaution to prevent our coming upon them.

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We



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We were now cross the mouth of a large bay, that lies about eight miles to the Southward of Howe's Foreland. In and before the entrance of this bay are several low islands, rocks, and those beds of sea-weed. But there seemed to be winding channels between them. After continuing our course half an hour longer, we were so much embarrassed with these shoals, that I resolved to haul off to the Eastward, as the likeliest means of extricating ourselves from the danger that threatened us. But so far was this from answering the intended purpose, that it brought us into more. I therefore found it absolutely necessary to secure the ships, if possible, in some place before night; especially as the weather had now become hazy, and a fog was apprehended. And seeing some inlets to the South West of us, I ordered Captain Clerke, as the Discovery drew less water than the Resolution, to lead in for the shore; which was accordingly done.

In standing in, it was not possible to avoid running over the edges of some of the shoals, on which we found from ten to twenty fathoms water; and the moment we were over, had no ground at the depth of fifty fathoms. After making a few boards to weather a spit that run out from an island on our lee, Captain Clerke made the signal for having discovered an harbour; in which, about five o'clock, we anchored in fifteen fathoms water, over a bottom of fine dark sand, about three quarters of a mile from the shore; the North point of the harbour bearing North by East $\frac{1}{2}$ East, one mile distant; and the small islands in the entrance, within which we anchored, extending from East to South East.

Scarcely were the ships secured, when it began to blow very strong; so that we thought it prudent to strike top-

gallant



gallant yards. The weather, however, continued fair; and the wind dispersing the fog that had settled on the hills, it was tolerably clear also. The moment, therefore, we had anchored, I hoisted out two boats; in one of which I sent Mr. Bligh, the Master, to survey the upper-part of the harbour, and look for wood; for not a shrub was to be seen from the ship. I also desired Captain Clerke to send his Master to sound the channel that is on the South side of the small isles, between them and a pretty large island which lies near the South point of the harbour. Having given these directions, I went myself, in my other boat, accompanied by Mr. Gore, my first Lieutenant, and Mr. Baily, and landed on the North point, to see what I could discover from thence.

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From the highest hill over the point, we had a pretty good view of the sea-coast, as far as Howe's Foreland. It is much indented, and several rocky points seemed to shoot out from it, with coves and inlets of unequal extent. One of the latter, the end of which I could not see, was disjoined from that in which the ships were at anchor, by the point we then stood upon. A great many small islands, rocks, and breakers appeared scattered along the coast, as well to the Southward as Northward; and I saw no better channel to get out of the harbour, than by the one through which we had entered it.

While Mr. Baily and I were making the observations, Mr. Gore encompassed the hill; and joined us by a different route, at the place where I had ordered the boat to wait for us. Except the craggy precipices, we met with nothing to obstruct our walk. For the country was, if possible, more barren and desolate than about Christmas Harbour. And



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yet, if there be the least fertility in any part of this land, we ought to have found it in this, which is completely sheltered from the predominating bleak Southerly and Westerly winds. I observed, with regret, that there was neither food nor covering for cattle of any sort; and that, if I left any, they must inevitably perish. In the little cove where the boat waited for us (which I called Penguin Cove, as the beach was covered with these birds), is a fine rivulet of fresh water, that may be easily come at. Here were also some large seals, shags, and a few ducks; and Mr. Baily had a transient sight of a very small land bird; but it flew amongst the rocks, and we lost it. About nine o'clock we got on board.

Soon after, Mr. Bligh returned, and reported, that he had been four miles up the harbour, and, as he judged, not far from the head of it. He found that its direction was West South West; and that its breadth, a little above the ships, did not exceed a mile; but grew narrower towards the head. The soundings were very irregular, being from thirty-seven to ten fathoms; and, except under the beds of sea-weed, which in many places extended from the shore near half channel over, the bottom was a fine sand. He landed on both shores, which he found barren and rocky, without the least signs of tree or shrub, and with very little verdure of any kind. Penguins, and other oceanic birds and seals, occupied part of the coast; but not in such numbers as at Christmas Harbour.

Monday 30. Finding no encouragement to continue our researches, and, the next morning, both wind and weather being favourable, I weighed anchor and put to sea. To this harbour I gave the name of Port Palliser, in honour of my worthy friend



friend Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser. It is situated in the latitude of $49^{\circ} 3'$ South, in the longitude of $69^{\circ} 37'$ East, and five leagues from Howe's Foreland, in the direction of South 25° East. There are several islands, rocks, and breakers lying in and without the entrance, for which the annexed Chart of the coast, and sketch of the harbour, may be consulted. We went in and out between them and the North head; but I have no doubt that there are other channels.

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As we were standing out of Port Palliser, we discovered a round hill, like a sugar-loaf, in the direction of South 72° East, about nine leagues distant. It had the appearance of an island lying at some distance from the coast; but we afterwards found it was upon the main land. In getting out to sea, we had to steer through the winding channels amongst the shoals. However, we ventured to run over some of them, on which we never found less than eighteen fathoms, and often did not strike ground with twenty-four; so that, had it not been for the sea-weed growing upon all of them, they would not have been discovered.

After we had got about three or four leagues from the coast, we found a clear sea, and then steered East till nine o'clock, when the Sugar Loaf hill, above mentioned, which I named Mount Campbell, bore South East, and a small island that lies to the Northward of it, South South East, distant four leagues. I now steered more Southerly, in order to get in with the land. At noon, the latitude by double altitudes was $49^{\circ} 8'$ South; and we had made eighty miles of East longitude from Cape St. Louis*. Mount Campbell bore South 47° West, distant about four leagues; a low point, beyond which no land was to be seen, bore South

* Cape François.

South.



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South East, at the distance of about twenty miles; and we were about two leagues from the shore.

The land here is low and level*. The mountains ending about five leagues from the low point, a great extent of low land is left, on which Mount Campbell is situated, about four miles from the foot of the mountains, and one from the sea coast. These mountains have a considerable elevation, as also most of the inland ones. They seemed to be composed of naked rocks, whose summits were caped with snow. Nor did the valleys appear to greater advantage. To whatever quarter we directed our glasses, nothing but sterility was to be seen.

We had scarcely finished taking the bearings at noon, before we observed low land opening off the low point just mentioned, in the direction of South South East, and eight miles beyond it. This new point proved to be the very Eastern extremity of this land, and it was named Cape Digby. It is situated in the latitude of $49^{\circ} 23'$ South, and in the longitude of $70^{\circ} 34'$ East.

Between Howe's Foreland and Cape Digby, the shore forms (besides the several lesser bays and harbours) one great bay that extends several leagues to the South West, where it seemed to lose itself in various arms running in between the mountains. A prodigious quantity of seaweed grows all over it, which seemed to be the same sort of weed that Mr. Banks distinguished by the name of *fucus*

* This part of the coast seems to be what the French saw on the 5th of January 1774. Monsieur de Pagés speaks of it thus: "Nous reconnûmes une nouvelle cote étendue de toute veue dans l'Est, & dans le Ouest. Les terres de cette cote étoient moins élevées que celles que nous avions vues jusques ici; elles étoient aussi d'un aspect moins rude." *De Pagés*, Tom. ii. p. 68.

giganteus.



giganteus *. Some of this weed is of a most enormous length, though the stem is not much thicker than a man's thumb. I have mentioned, that on some of the shoals upon which it grows, we did not strike ground with a line of twenty-four fathoms. The depth of water, therefore, must have been greater. And as this weed does not grow in a perpendicular direction, but makes a very acute angle with the bottom, and much of it afterwards spreads many fathoms on the surface of the sea, I am well warranted to say, that some of it grows to the length of sixty fathoms and upward.

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At one o'clock (having run two leagues upon a South East $\frac{1}{4}$ East course, from noon) we founded, and found eighteen fathoms water, and a bottom of fine sand. Seeing a small bending in the coast, on the North side of Cape Digby, I steered for it. It was my intention to anchor there, if I should find it might be done with safety, and to land on the Cape, to examine what the low land within it produced. After running in one league, we founded again, and found thirteen fathoms; and immediately after, saw a shoal right before us, that seemed to extend off from the shore, from which we were distant about two miles. This discovery obliged us to haul off, East by South, one league, where our depth of water increased to twenty-five fathoms. We then steered along shore, and continued in the same depth, over a bottom of fine sand, till Cape Digby bore West, two leagues distant, when we found twenty-six fathoms.

After this we did not strike ground, though we tried several times; but the ship having a good deal of way, ran

* See Hawkesworth's Collection of Voyages, Vol. ii. p. 42.

the



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the line out before the lead could reach the bottom; and being disappointed in my views both of anchoring and of landing, I would not shorten sail, but pushed forward, in order to see as much of the coast as possible before night. From Cape Digby, it trends nearly South West by South for about four or five leagues, or to a low point, to which, in honour of her Majesty, I gave the name of Point Charlotte, and it is the Southernmost on the low coast.

Six leagues from Cape Digby, in the direction of South South West $\frac{1}{2}$ West, is a pretty high projecting point, which was called Prince of Wales's Foreland; and six leagues beyond that, in the same direction, and in the latitude of $49^{\circ} 54'$ South, and the longitude of $70^{\circ} 13'$ East, is the most Southerly point of the whole coast, which I distinguished by the name of Cape George, in honour of his Majesty.

Between Point Charlotte and Prince of Wales's Foreland, where the country to the South West began again to be hilly, is a deep inlet, which was called Royal Sound. It runs in West, quite to the foot of the mountains which bound it on the South West, as the low land before-mentioned does on the North. There are islands lying in the entrance, and others higher up, as far as we could distinguish. As we advanced to the South, we observed, on the South West side of Prince of Wales's Foreland, another inlet into Royal Sound; and it then appeared, that the Foreland was the East point of a large island lying in the mouth of it. There are several small islands in this inlet; and one about a league to the Southward of Prince of Wales's Foreland.

All the land on the South West side of Royal Sound, quite to Cape George, is composed of elevated hills, that rise directly from the sea, one behind another, to a considerable
4 height.



height. Most of the summits were capd with snow, and they appeared as naked and barren as any we had seen. The smallest vestige of a tree or shrub was not discoverable, either inland or on the coast; and, I think, I may venture to pronounce that the country produces none. The low land about Cape Digby, when examined through our glasses, resembled the rest of the low land we had before met with; that is, it appeared to be partly naked and partly covered with a green turf; a description of which shall be given in its proper place. The shore is composed of sandy beaches, on which were many penguins, and other oceanic birds; and an immense number of shags kept perpetually flying about the ships as we sailed along.

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Being desirous of getting the length of Cape George, to be assured whether or no it was the most Southerly point of the whole land, I continued to stretch to the South, under all the sail we could carry, till half an hour past seven o'clock; when, seeing no likelihood of accomplishing my design, as the wind had, by this time, shifted to West South West, the very direction in which we wanted to go, I took the advantage of the shifting of the wind, and stood away from the coast.

At this time Cape George bore South 53° West, distant about seven leagues. A small island that lies off the pitch of the Cape, was the only land we could see to the South of it; and we were farther confirmed that there was no more in that quarter, by a South West swell which we met as soon as we brought the Cape to bear in this direction.

But we have still a stronger proof that no part of this land can extend much, if at all, to the Southward of Cape George; and that is, Captain Furneaux's track in February



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1773, after his separation from me during my late voyage. His log-book is now lying before me; and I find from it, that he crossed the meridian of this land only about seventeen leagues to the Southward of Cape George; a distance at which it may very well be seen in clear weather. This seems to have been the case when Captain Furneaux passed it. For his log-book makes no mention of fogs or hazy weather; on the contrary, it expressly tells us, that, when in this situation, they had it in their power to make observations, both for latitude and longitude, on board his ship; so that, if this land extends farther South than Cape George, it would have been scarcely possible that he should have passed without seeing it.

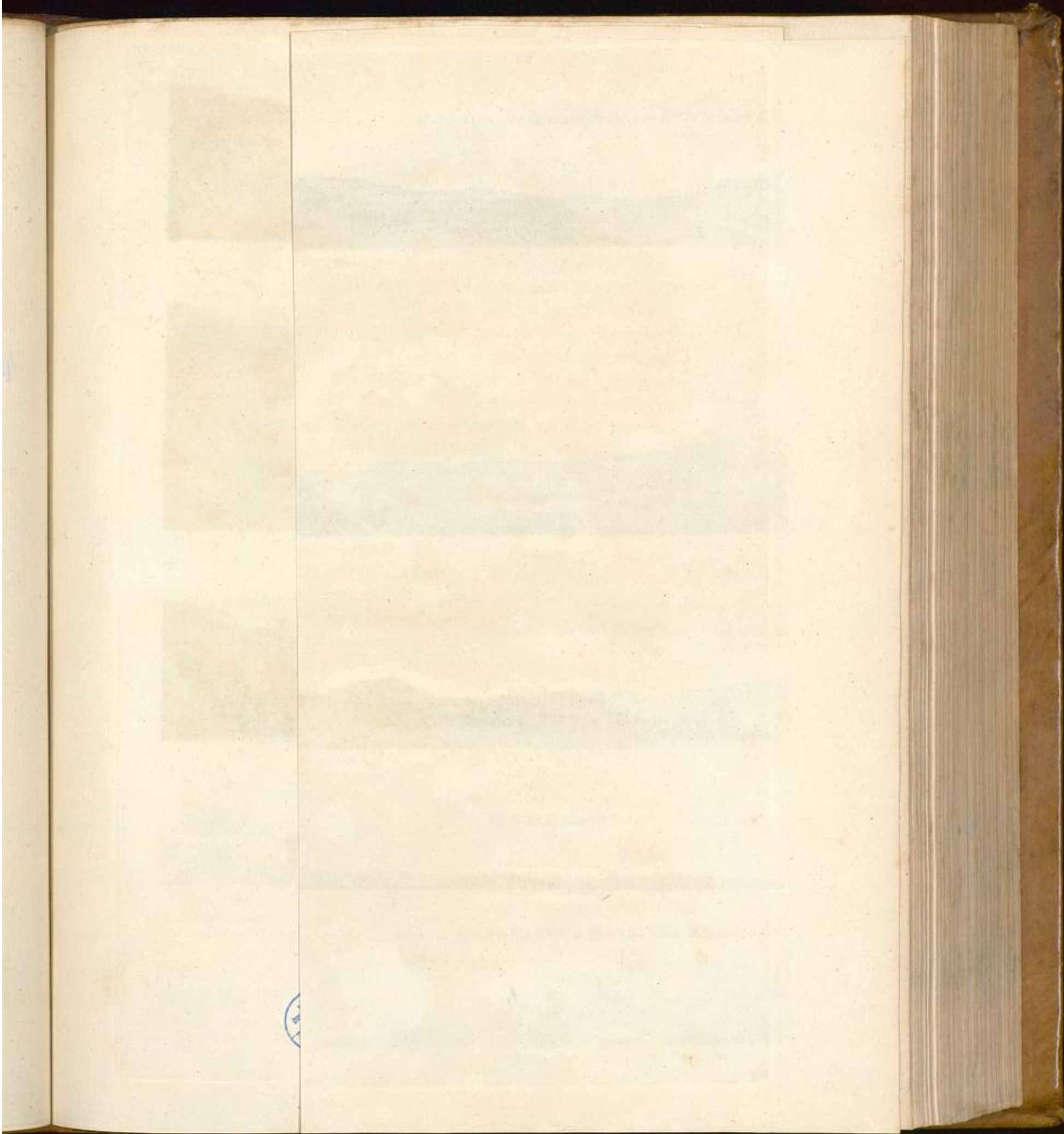
From these circumstances we are able to determine, within a very few miles, the quantity of latitude that this land occupies; which does not much exceed one degree and a quarter. As to its extent from East to West, that still remains undecided. We only know, that no part of it can reach so far to the West as the meridian of 65° ; because, in 1773, under that meridian, I searched for it in vain*.

The French discoverers, with some reason, imagined Cape St. Louis † to be the projecting point of a Southern continent.

* If the French observations, as marked upon Captain Cook's Chart, and still more authentically upon that published by their own discoverers, may be depended upon, this land doth not reach so far to the West as the meridian of 68° ; Cape Louis, which is represented as its most Westerly point, being laid down by them to the East of that meridian.

† The idea of Cape Louis being this projecting point of a Southern continent, must have soon vanished, as Cape François, within a year after, was found, by the same discoverer, to lie above one third of a degree farther North upon the same land. But if Kerguelen entertained any such imagination at first, we are sure that, at present, he thinks very differently. This appears from the following explicit declaration of his sentiments, which deserves to be transcribed from his late publication, as it does equal honour





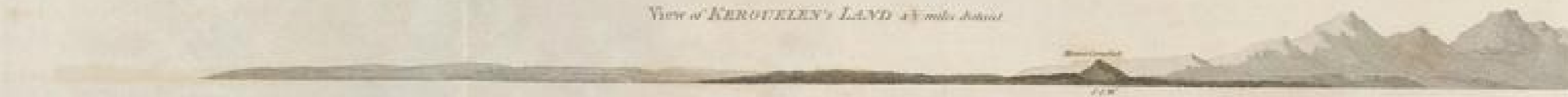
Three Views of Arched Point, on KERQUELEN'S LAND.



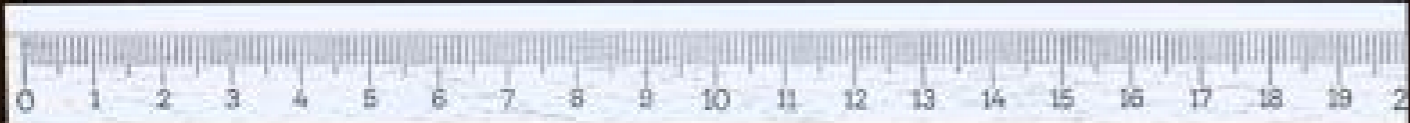
View of Arched Point from 5 or 6 miles distant



View of KERQUELEN'S LAND 4 or 5 miles distant



View of KERQUELEN'S LAND when Prince of Wales's Fordland from N.E.W.



LAND.



distant.



es distant.

Mount Campbell

S.S.W



ales's Foreland bears W.S.W.



ment. The English have since proved that no such continent exists; and that the land in question is an island of no great extent*; which, from its sterility, I should, with great propriety, call the Island of Desolation, but that I would not rob Monsieur de Kerguelen of the honour of its bearing his name †.

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honour to his candour, and to Captain Cook's abilities. "La terre que j'ai decouverte est certainement une Isle; puisque le célèbre Capitaine Cook a passé au Sud, lors de son première voyage, sans rien rencontrer. Je juge même, que cette île n'est pas bien grande. Il y a aussi apparence, d'après le Voyage de Monsieur Cook, que toute cette étendue des Mers Meridionales, est semée d'Isles ou de rochers; mais qu'il n'y a ni continent ni grande terre." Kerguelen, p. 92.

* Kerguelen, as we see in the last Note, concurs with Captain Cook as to this. However, he tells us, that he has reason to believe that it is about two hundred leagues in circuit; and that he was acquainted with about fourscore leagues of its coast. "J'en connois environ quatre-vingt lieues des côtes; & j'ai lieu de croire, qu'elle a environ deux cents lieues de circuit." Kerguelen, *ibid.*

† Some of Monsieur de Kerguelen's own countrymen seem more desirous than we are, to rob him of this honour. It is very remarkable that Monsieur de Pagés never once mentions the name of his commander. And, though he takes occasion to enumerate the several French explorers of the Southern Hemisphere, from Gonneville down to Crozet, he affects to preserve an entire silence about Kerguelen, whose first voyage, in which the discovery of this considerable tract of land was made, is kept as much out of sight, as if it never had taken place. Nay, not satisfied with refusing to acknowledge the right of another, he almost assumes it to himself. For upon a Map of the World, annexed to his book, at the spot where the new land is delineated, we read this inscription: *Isles nouvelles Australes vuées par Monsieur de Pagés, en 1774.* He could scarcely have expressed himself in stronger terms, if he had meant to convey an idea that he was the conductor of the discovery. And yet we know, that he was only a Lieutenant [Enseigne de vaisseau] on board one of the three ships commanded by Kerguelen; and that the discovery had been already made in a former voyage, undertaken while he was actually engaged in his singular journey round the world.

After all, it cannot but be remarked, that Kerguelen was peculiarly unfortunate, in having done so little to complete what he had begun. He discovered a new land indeed; but, in two expeditions to it, he could not once bring his ships to an anchor upon any part of its coasts. Captain Cook, as we have seen in this, and in the foregoing Chapter, had either fewer difficulties to struggle with, or was more successful in surmounting them.

M 2

Mr.



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Mr. Anderson, my Surgeon, who, as I have already mentioned, had made Natural History a part of his studies, lost no opportunity, during the short time we lay in Christmas Harbour, of searching the country in every direction. He afterwards communicated to me the observations he made on its natural productions; and I shall insert them here in his own words.

“ Perhaps no place, hitherto discovered in either hemisphere, under the same parallel of latitude, affords so scanty a field for the naturalist as this barren spot. The verdure which appears, when at a little distance from the shore, would flatter one with the expectation of meeting with some herbage; but in this we were much deceived. For on landing, we saw that this lively colour was occasioned only by one small plant, not much unlike some sorts of *saxifrage*, which grows in large spreading tufts, to a considerable way up the hills. It forms a surface of a pretty large texture, and grows on a kind of rotten turf, into which one sinks a foot or two at every step. This turf, dried, might, in cases of necessity, serve for fuel, and is the only thing we met with here that could possibly be applied to this use.

There is another plant, plentifully enough scattered about the boggy declivities, which grows to near the height of two feet, and not much unlike a small cabbage, when it has shot into seeds. The leaves about the root are numerous, large, and rounded; narrower at the base, and ending in a small point. Those on the stalks are much smaller, oblong, and pointed. The stalks, which are often three or four, all rise separately from the root, and run into long cylindrical heads, composed of small flowers. It has not
only

only the appearance, but the watery acrid taste of the anti-scorbutic plants, and yet differs materially from the whole tribe; so that we looked upon it as a production entirely peculiar to the place. We eat it frequently raw, and found it almost like the New Zealand scurvy-grass. But it seemed to acquire a rank flavour by being boiled; which, however, some of our people did not perceive, and esteemed it good. If it could be introduced into our kitchen gardens, it would, in all probability, improve so far by cultivation, as to be an excellent pot-herb. At this time, none of its seeds were ripe enough to be preserved, and brought home, to try the experiment.

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Two other small plants were found near the brooks and boggy places, which were eaten as salad; the one almost like garden cresses, and very fiery; and the other very mild. This last, though but small, is in itself a curiosity; having not only male and female, but what the botanists call *androgynous* plants.

A coarse grass, which we cut down for the cattle, grows pretty plentifully in a few small spots about the sides of the harbour, with a smaller sort which is rarer; and, upon the flat ground, a sort of goose-grass, and another small plant much like it. In short, the whole catalogue of plants does not exceed sixteen or eighteen, including some sorts of moss, and a beautiful species of *lichen*, which grows upon the rocks, higher up than the rest of the vegetable productions. Nor is there even the least appearance of a shrub in the whole country.

Nature has rather been more bountiful in furnishing it with animals; though, strictly speaking, they are not inhabitants of the place, being all of the marine kind; and, in general,



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general, only using the land for breeding, and for a resting-place. The most considerable are seals, or (as we used to call them) sea bears; being that sort called the urfine seal. These come ashore to rest or breed; but they were not very numerous, which is not to be wondered at, as it is known that these animals rather frequent out-rocks, and little islands lying off coasts, than bays or inlets. They were, at this time, shedding their hair, and so tame, that we killed what number we chose.

No other quadruped, either of the sea or of the land kind, was seen; but a great number of birds, *viz.* ducks, petrels, albatrosses, shags, gulls, and sea-swallows.

The ducks are about the size of a teal or widgeon; but somewhat different in colour from either. They were in tolerable plenty about the sides of the hills, or even lower; and we killed a considerable number, which were good, and without the least fishy taste. We met with some of the same sort at the island of Georgia, in our late voyage.

The Cape petrel, or Pintado bird; the small blue one, which is always seen at sea; and the small black one, or Mother Carey's Chicken, are not here in great numbers. But we found a nest of the first with an egg in it, about the size of a pullet's; and the second, though scarce, was met with in some holes like rabbit-burrows.

Another sort, which is the largest of all the petrels, and called by the seamen Mother Carey's Goose, is in greater numbers; and so tame, that at first we could kill them with a stick upon the beach. They are not inferior in size to an albatross, and are carnivorous, feeding on the dead carcasses of seals or birds, that were thrown into the sea.

Their



Their colour is a fuddy brown, with a greenish bill and feet; and, doubtless, they are the same that the Spaniards call *quebrantabueffos*, whose head is figured in Pernetty's Voyage to Falkland Islands *.

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Of the albatrosses, none were found on shore except the grey one, which is commonly met with at sea in the higher Southern latitudes. Once I saw one of these sitting in the cliff of a rock, but they were frequently flying about the harbour; and the common large sort, as well as a smaller with a black face, were seen farther out.

Penguins form, by far, the greatest number of birds here; and are of three sorts: The first, or largest, I have seen formerly at the island of Georgia †. It is also mentioned by Bougainville ‡; but it does not seem to be so solitary as he represents it, for we found considerable numbers flocking together. The head is black, the upper part of the body a leaden grey, and the under part white, with black feet. It has two broad stripes of fine yellow, that begin on the sides of the head, and descending by each side of the neck, meet above its breast. The bill is partly reddish, and longer than in the other sorts.

The second sort of penguin scarcely exceeds half the size of the former. The upper part of the body is a blackish grey, with a white spot on the upper part of the head, growing broader at each side. The bill and feet are yellowish. A very accurate figure and description, both of this and of the preceding, is given by Mr. Sonnerat §.

* Fig. 3. Plate VIII.

† Pennant's Patagonian penguin. See his *Genera of Birds*. Tab. 14. p. 66.

‡ *Voyage autour du Monde*, p. 69.

§ *Voyage à la Nouvelle Guinée*, p. 181, 182. Tab. 113. 115.

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The third sort of penguin met with here, had never been seen by any of us before. Its length is twenty-four inches, and its breadth twenty. The upper part of the body and throat are black; the rest white, except the upper part of the head, which has a fine yellow arch, looking backward, and ending on each side in long soft feathers, which it can erect as two crests.

The two first sorts were found together on the beach; the large ones keeping by themselves, and walking in small flocks amongst the others, which were more numerous, and were sometimes seen a considerable way up the sides of the hills. The third sort were only found by themselves, but in great numbers, on the outer shores of the harbour. They were breeding at this time; and they lay, on the bare stones, only one white egg, larger than that of a duck. All the three sorts of penguins were so tame, that we took as many as we pleased with our hands.

The shags of this place are of two sorts; the lesser corvora or water crow, and another, which is black above, with a white belly; the same that is found in New Zealand, Terra del Fuego, and the island of Georgia.

We also met with here the common sea-gull, sea-swallow, tern, and Port Egmont hen; the last of which were tame and numerous.

Another sort of white bird, flocks of which flew about the bay, is very singular; having the base of the bill covered with a horny crust*. It is larger than a pigeon, with the bill black and the feet white, made like those of a cur-

* The sheath-bill. See Pennant's *Genera of Birds*, p. 43.



lew. Some of our people put it in competition with the duck, as food.

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The seine was hauled once; but we found only a few fish about the size of a small haddock; though quite different from any we knew. The snout is lengthened; the head armed with some strong spines; the rays of the back-fin long, and very strong; the belly is large; and the body without scales. The only shell fish are a few limpets and muscles; and, amongst the stones, a few small star-fish, and sea-anemonies, were found.

The hills are of a moderate height; yet many of their tops were covered with snow at this time, though answering to our June. Some of them have large quantities of stones, irregularly heaped together at their foot, or on their sides. The sides of others, which form steep cliffs towards the sea, are rent from the top downward, and seem ready to fall off, having stones of a considerable size lying in the fissures. Some were of opinion that frost might be the cause of these fissures, which I shall not dispute; but how others of the appearances could be effected, but by earthquakes, or some such severe shocks, I cannot say.

It appears that rain must be almost constant here, not only from the marks of large torrents having rushed down, but from the disposition of the country, which, even on the hills, is almost an entire bog or swamp, the ground sinking at every step.

The rocks, or foundations of the hills, are composed chiefly of a dark blue, and very hard, stone, intermixed with small particles of glimmer or quartz. This seems to be one of the most universal productions of Nature, as it constitutes whole mountains in Sweden, in Scotland, at the



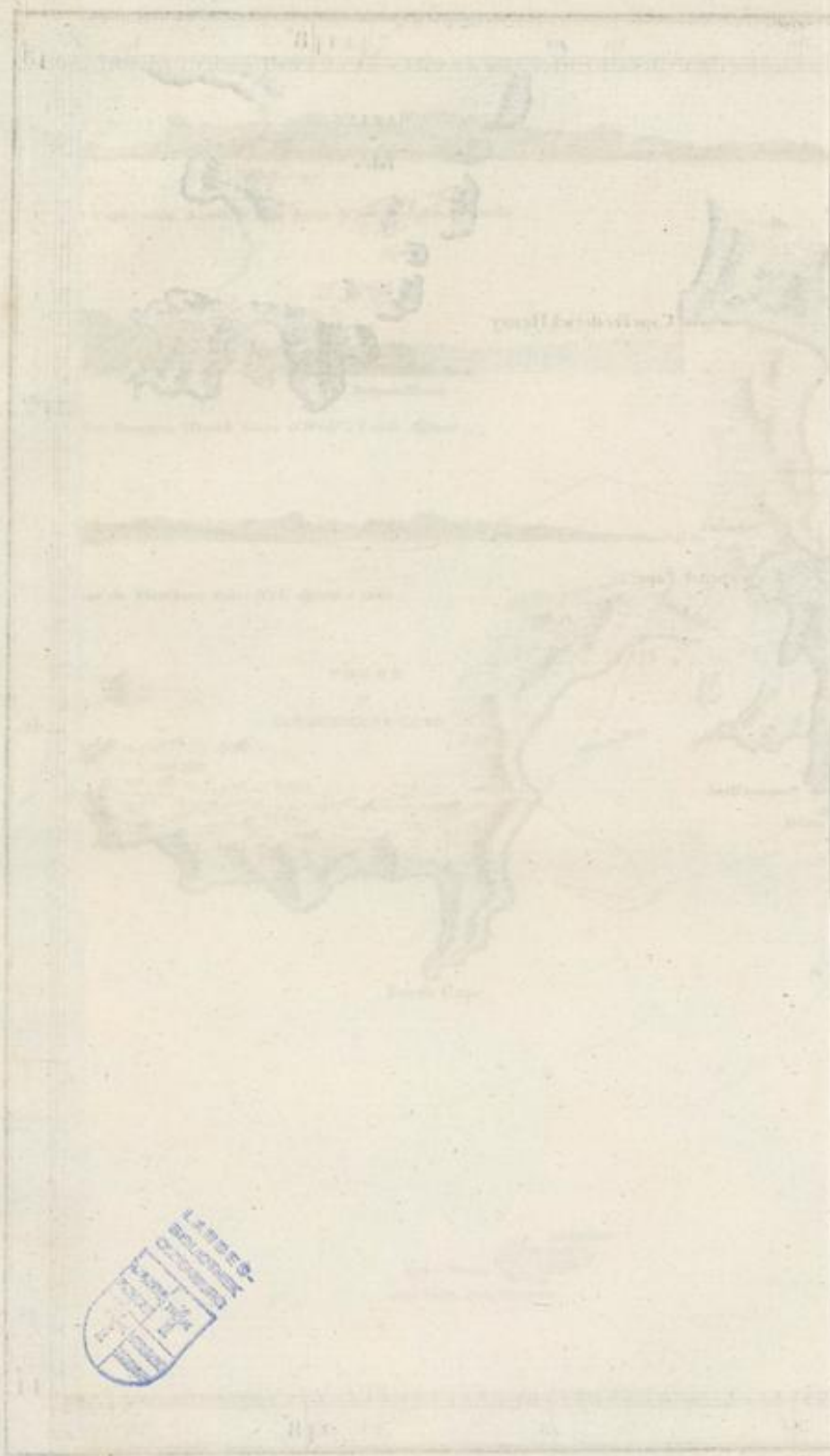
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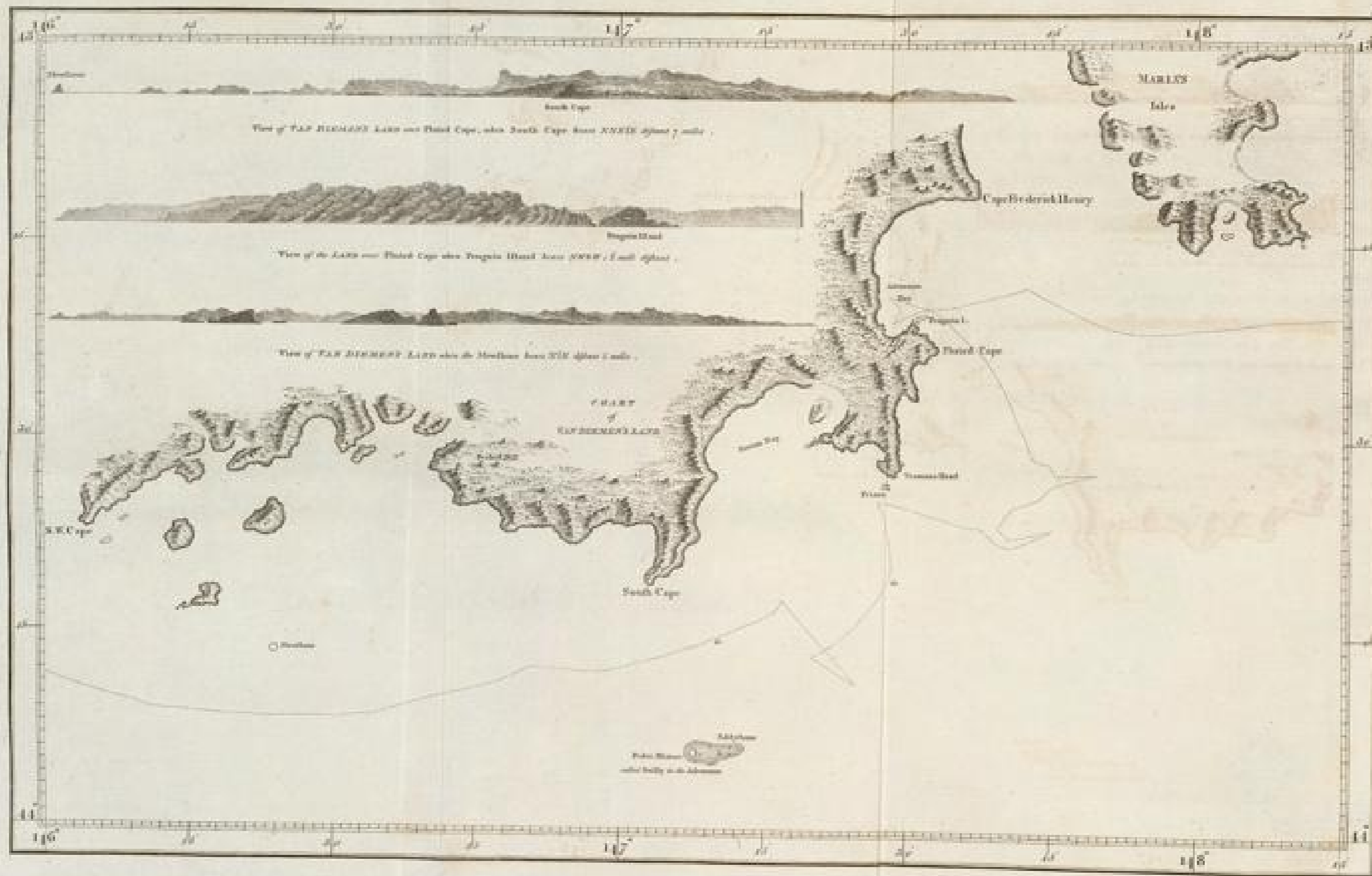
Canary Islands, the Cape of Good Hope, and at this place. Another brownish brittle stone forms here some considerable rocks; and one which is blacker, and found in detached pieces, incloses bits of coarse quartz. A red, a dull yellow, and a purplish sand-stone, are also found in small pieces; and pretty large lumps of semi-transparent quartz, disposed irregularly in polyedral pyramidal crystals of long shining fibres. Some small pieces of the common sort are met with in the brooks, made round by attrition; but none hard enough to resist a file. Nor were any of the other stones acted on by aqua fortis, or attracted by the magnet.

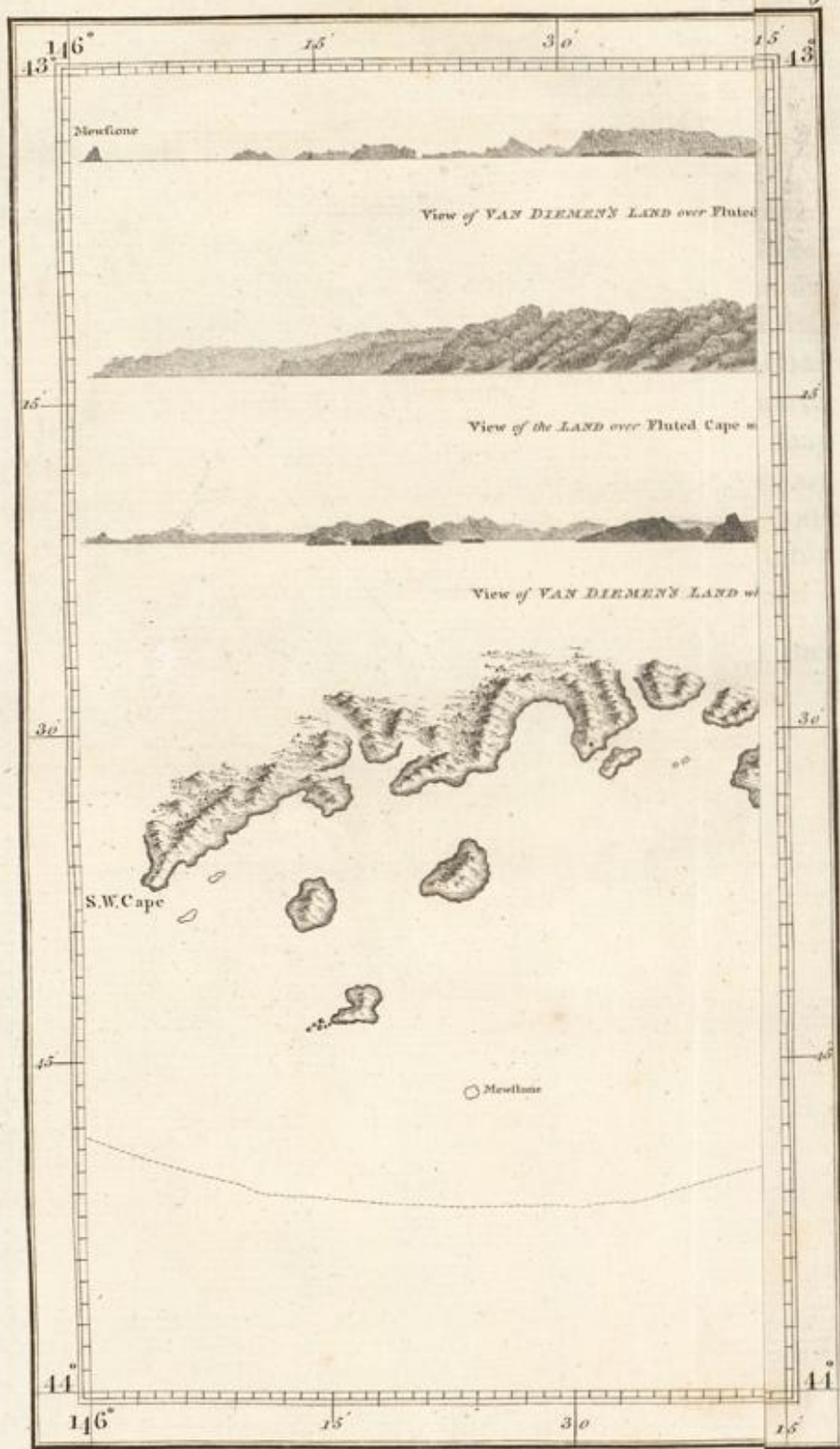
Nothing, that had the least appearance of an ore or metal, was seen."

CHAP.









Herman, sculp.

