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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. VIII.

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## C H A P. VIII.

*Progress Northward, after leaving Oonalashka.—The Islands Oonella and Acootan.—Ooneemak.—Shallowness of the Water along the Coast.—Bristol Bay.—Round Island.—Calm Point.—Cape Newenham.—Lieutenant Williamson lands, and his Report.—Bristol Bay, and its Extent.—The Ships obliged to return, on account of Shoals.—Natives come off to the Ships.—Death of Mr. Anderson; his Character; and Island named after him.—Point Rodney.—Sledge Island, and Remarks on landing there.—King's Island.—Cape Prince of Wales, the Western Extreme of America.—Course Westward.—Anchor in a Bay on the Coast of Asia.*

1778.  
July.  
Thursday 2.

**H**AVING put to sea with a light breeze, at South South East, we steered to the North, meeting with nothing to obstruct us in this course. For, as I observed before, the Island of Oonalashka, on the one side, trended South West; and, on the other, no land was to be seen in a direction more Northerly than North East; the whole of which land was a continuation of the same group of islands which we had fallen in with on the 25th of June. That which lies before Samganoodha, and forms the North East side of the passage through which we came, is called *Oonella*, and is about seven leagues in circumference. Another island, to the North East of it, is called *Acootan*, which is considerably larger than *Oonella*, and hath in it some very high mountains,



tains, which were covered with snow. It appeared, that we might have gone very safely between these two islands and the continent, the South West point of which opened off the North East point of Acootan, in the direction of North,  $60^{\circ}$  East; and which proved to be the same point of land we had seen when we quitted the coast of the continent, on the 25th of June, to go without the islands. It is called by the people of these parts *Oonemak*, and lies in the latitude of  $54^{\circ} 30'$ , and in the longitude of  $192^{\circ} 30'$ . Over the cape, which, of itself, is high land, is a round elevated mountain, at this time entirely covered with snow.

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At six in the evening, this mountain bore East,  $2^{\circ}$  North; and at eight we had no land in sight. Concluding, therefore, that the coast of the continent had now taken a North Easterly direction, I ventured to steer the same course, till one o'clock next morning, when the watch on deck thought they saw land ahead. Upon this we wore, and stood to the South West for two hours, and then resumed our course to the East North East. Friday 3<sup>d</sup>.

At six o'clock, land was seen ahead, bearing South East, about five leagues distant. As we advanced, we raised more and more land, all connected, and seemingly in the direction of our course. At noon, it extended from South South West to East; the nearest part five or six leagues distant. Our latitude, at this time, was  $55^{\circ} 21'$ , and our longitude  $195^{\circ} 18'$ . This coast is on the North West side of the *volcano* mountain; so that we must have seen it, if the weather had been tolerably clear.

At six in the evening, after having run eight leagues upon an East by North course from noon, we founded, and

3 I 2

found





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July. found forty-eight fathoms, over a bottom of black sand. Being at this time four leagues from the land, the Eastern part in sight bore East South East, and appeared as a high round hummock, seemingly detached from the main.

Saturday 4. Having continued to steer East North East all night, at eight in the morning of the 4th, the coast was seen from South South West, and East by South; and at times we could see high land, covered with snow, behind it. Soon after, it fell calm, and being in thirty fathoms water, we put over hooks and lines, and caught a good number of fine cod-fish. At noon, having now a breeze from the East, and the weather being clear, we found ourselves six leagues from the land, which extended from South by West to East by South. The hummock, seen the preceding evening, bore South West by South, ten leagues distant. Our latitude was now  $55^{\circ} 50'$ , and our longitude  $197^{\circ} 3'$ . A great hollow swell from West South West, assured us, that there was no main land near, in that direction. I stood to the North till six in the afternoon, when the wind having veered to South East, enabled us to steer East North East. The coast lay in this direction, and, at noon the next day, was about four leagues distant.

Sunday 5.  
Monday 6.  
Tuesday 7.  
Wednesday 8. On the 6th and 7th, the wind being Northerly, we made but little progress. At eight in the evening of the latter, we were in nineteen fathoms water, and about three or four leagues from the coast, which, on the 8th, extended from South South West to East by North, and was all low land, with a ridge of mountains behind it, covered with snow. It is probable, that this low coast extends, some distance, to the South West; and that such places as we sometimes took for inlets or bays, are only vallies between the mountains.



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On the morning of the 9th, with a breeze at North West, we steered East by North, to get nearer the coast. At noon, we were in the latitude of  $57^{\circ} 49'$ , and in the longitude of  $201^{\circ} 33'$ , and about two leagues from the land, which extended from South by East to East North East; being all a low coast, with points shooting out in some places, which, from the deck, appeared like islands; but, from the mast-head, low land was seen to connect them. In this situation, the depth of water was fifteen fathoms, the bottom a fine black sand.

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July.  
Thursday 9.

As we had advanced to the North East, we had found the depth of water gradually decreasing, and the coast trending more and more Northerly. But the ridge of mountains behind it, continued to lie in the same direction as those more Westerly; so that the extent of the low land, between the foot of the mountains and the sea coast, insensibly increased. Both high and low grounds were perfectly destitute of wood; but seemed to be covered with a green turf, except the mountains, which were covered with snow. Continuing to steer along the coast, with a gentle breeze Westerly, the water gradually shoaled from fifteen to ten fathoms, though we were at the distance of eight or ten miles from the shore. At eight in the evening, an elevated mountain, which had been in sight for some time, bore South East by East, twenty-one leagues distant. Some other mountains, belonging to the same chain, and much farther distant, bore East  $3^{\circ}$  North. The coast extended as far as North East half North, where it seemed to terminate in a point, beyond which we hoped and expected, that it would take a more Easterly direction. But soon after, we discovered low land, extending from behind this point, as far as North  
West





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July.

West by West, where it was lost in the horizon; and behind it was high land, that appeared in detached hills.

Thus the fine prospect we had of getting to the North vanished in a moment. I stood on till nine o'clock, for so long it was light, and then the point above mentioned, bore North East half East, about three miles distant. Behind this point is a river, the entrance of which seemed to be a mile broad; but I can say nothing as to its depth. The water appeared discoloured, as upon shoals, but a calm would have given it the same aspect. It seemed to have a winding direction, through the great flat that lies between the chain of mountains to the South East, and the hills to the North West. It must abound with salmon, as we saw many leaping in the sea before the entrance; and some were found in the maws of cod which we had caught. The entrance of this river, distinguished by the name of *Bristol River*, lies in the latitude of  $58^{\circ} 27'$ , and in the longitude of  $201^{\circ} 55'$ .

Friday 10.

Having spent the night in making short boards; at day-break on the morning of the 10th, we made sail to the West South West, with a gentle breeze at North East. At eleven o'clock, we thought the coast to the North West terminated in a point, bearing North West by West; and as we had now deepened the water from nine to fourteen fathoms, I steered for the point, ordering the *Discovery* to keep ahead. But before she had run a mile, she made a signal for shoal water. At that instant, we had the depth of seven fathoms; and before we could get the ship's head the other way, had less than five; but the *Discovery* had less than four.

We stood back to the North East, three or four miles; but finding there was a strong tide or current setting to the West South West, that is toward the shoal, we anchored in ten fathoms,





fathoms, over a bottom of fine sand. Two hours after we had anchored, the water had fallen two feet and upward; which proved, that it was the tide of ebb that came from the river above mentioned. We also examined some of the water which we had taken up, and found that it was not half so salt as common sea water. This furnished another proof, that we were before a large river.

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July.

At four in the afternoon, the wind shifting to South West, we weighed and stood to the Southward, with boats ahead founding; and passed over the South end of the shoal, in six fathoms water. We then got into thirteen and fifteen; in which last depth we anchored, at half past eight; some part of the chain of mountains, on the South East shore, in sight, bearing South East half South; and the Westernmost land on the other shore, North West. We had, in the course of the day, seen high land, bearing North, 60° West, by estimation twelve leagues distant.

Having weighed next morning, at two o'clock, with a light breeze at South West by West, we plied to windward till nine; when judging the flood tide to be now made against us, we came to an anchor in twenty-four fathoms. We lay here till one, when the fog, which had prevailed this morning, dispersing, and the tide making in our favour, we weighed and plied to the South West. In the evening, the wind was very variable, and we had some thunder. We had heard none before, since our arrival upon the coast; and this was at a great distance.

Saturday 11.

The wind having settled again in the South West quarter, in the morning of the 12th, we stood to the North West, and at ten saw the continent. At noon, it extended from North East by North, to North North West a quarter West; and an elevated

Sunday 12.





1778.  
July.

elevated hill bore North North West, ten leagues distant. This proved to be an island, which, from its figure, obtained the name of *Round Island*. It lies in the latitude of  $58^{\circ} 37'$ , and in the longitude of  $200^{\circ} 6'$ , and seven miles from the continent. In the evening at nine, having flood to the Northward to within three leagues of the shore, we tacked in fourteen fathoms water; the extremes of the coast bearing East South East half East, and West. The wind veering to the North West, enabled us to make a good stretch along shore, till two o'clock in the morning, when we got all at once into six fathoms water, being at this time two leagues from the shore. After edging off a little, our depth gradually increased, and at noon we had twenty fathoms, when the latitude was  $58^{\circ} 13'$ , and the longitude  $199^{\circ}$ . Round Island bore North,  $5^{\circ}$  East; and the West extreme of the coast North,  $16^{\circ}$  West, seven leagues distant. It is an elevated point, which obtained the name of *Calm Point*, from our having calm weather when off it. To the North West of Round Island are two or three hillocks, that appeared like islands; and it is possible they may be such; for we had but a distant view of the coast in this place.

Tuesday 14.  
Wednes. 15.

During the 14th and 15th, our progress was slow, having little wind, and sometimes so thick a fog, that we could not see the length of the ship. The soundings were from fourteen to twenty-six fathoms; and we had tolerable success in fishing, catching cod, and now and then a few flat-fish. At five in the morning of the 16th, the fog having cleared up, we found ourselves nearer the land than we expected. *Calm Point* bore North,  $72^{\circ}$  East, and a point eight leagues from it, in the direction of West, bore North,  $3^{\circ}$  East, three miles distant. Between these two points, the coast forms a bay, in some parts of which the land was hardly

Thursday 16.





hardly visible from the mast head. There is also a bay on the North West side of this last point, between it and an elevated promontory, which, at this time, bore North,  $36^{\circ}$  West, sixteen miles distant. At nine, I sent Lieutenant Williamson to this promontory, with orders to land, and see what direction the coast took beyond it, and what the country produced; for, from the ships, it had but a barren appearance. We found here the flood-tide setting strongly to the North West along the coast. At noon it was high-water, and we anchored in twenty-four fathoms, four leagues distant from the shore. At five in the afternoon, the tide making in our favour, we weighed, and drove with it; for there was no wind.

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July.

Soon after Mr. Williamson returned, and reported, that he had landed on the point, and, having climbed the highest hill, found, that the farthest part of the coast in sight bore nearly North. He took possession of the country in his Majesty's name, and left on the hill a bottle, in which was inscribed, on a piece of paper, the names of the ships, and the date of the discovery. The promontory, to which he gave the name of *Cape Newenham*, is a rocky point, of tolerable height, situated in the latitude of  $58^{\circ} 42'$ , and in the longitude of  $197^{\circ} 36'$ . Over, or within it, are two elevated hills, rising one behind the other. The innermost, or Easternmost, is the highest. The country, as far as Mr. Williamson could see, produces neither tree nor shrub. The hills are naked; but on the lower grounds grew grass, and other plants, very few of which were in flower. He saw no other animal but a doe and her fawn; and a dead sea-horse, or cow, upon the beach. Of these animals we had lately seen a great many.





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July.

As the coast takes a Northerly direction from Cape Newenham, that Cape fixes the Northern limit of the great bay and gulph, lying before the river Bristol, which, in honour of the admiral Earl of Bristol, was named *Bristol Bay*. Cape *Ooneemak* is the South limit of this bay; and is distant eighty-two leagues from Cape Newenham, in the direction of South South West.

Friday 17.

About eight in the evening, a light breeze springing up, which fixed at South South East, we steered North West, and North North West, round Cape Newenham, which, at noon next day, bore South by East, distant four leagues. At this time the most advanced land to the Northward bore North,  $30^{\circ}$  East; our depth of water was seventeen fathoms; and the nearest shore  $3\frac{1}{2}$  leagues distant. We had but little wind all the afternoon; so that, at ten at night, we had only made three leagues upon a North course.

Saturday 18.

We steered North by West till eight the next morning, when, our depth of water decreasing suddenly to five and seven fathoms, we brought to, till a boat from each ship was sent ahead to sound, and then steered North East after them; and at noon we had deepened the water to seventeen fathoms. At this time, Cape Newenham bore South,  $9^{\circ}$  East, distant eleven or twelve leagues; the North East extreme of the land in sight North,  $66^{\circ}$  East; and the nearest shore about four or five leagues distant. Our latitude, by observation, was  $59^{\circ} 16'$ .

Between this latitude and Cape Newenham, the coast is composed of hills, and low land, and appeared to form several bays. A little before one o'clock, the boats ahead made the signal for meeting with shoal water. It seems they had only two fathoms; and, at the same time, the





ships were in six fathoms. By hauling a little more to the Northward, we continued in much the same depth till between five and six o'clock, when the boats meeting with less and less water, I made the signal to the Discovery, she being then ahead, to anchor, which we did soon after. In bringing our ship up, the cable parted at the clinch, which obliged us to come to with the other anchor. We rode in six fathoms water, a sandy bottom, and about four or five leagues from the main-land; Cape Newenham bearing South, seventeen leagues distant. The farthest hills we could see to the North, bore North East by East; but there was low land stretching out from the high land, as far as North by East. Without this, was a shoal of sand and stones, that was dry at half ebb.

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July.

I had sent the two Masters, each in a boat, to sound between this shoal and the coast. On their return, they reported, that there was a channel, in which they found six and seven fathoms water; but that it was narrow and intricate. At low water, we made an attempt to get a hawser round the lost anchor; but did not succeed then. However, being determined not to leave it behind me, as long as there was a probability of recovering it, I persevered in my endeavours; and at last succeeded in the evening of the 20th. Monday 20.

While we were thus employed, I ordered Captain Clerke to send his Master in a boat to look for a passage in the South West quarter. He did so; but no channel was to be found in that direction; nor did there appear to be any way to get clear of these shoals, but to return by the track which had brought us in. For, although by following the channel we were in, we might probably have got farther down the coast; and though possibly this channel might have led us





1778.  
July.

at last to the North, clear of the shoals, still the attempt would have been attended with vast risk; and if we should not have succeeded, there would have been a considerable loss of time that could ill be spared. These reasons induced me to return by the way in which we came; and so get without the shoals.

A number of lunar observations made by Mr. King and myself, on this, and the four preceding days, and all reduced to the ship's present station, gave the longitude,  $197^{\circ} 45' 48''$

By the time-keeper it was - - -  $197^{\circ} 26' 48''$

Our latitude was - - -  $59^{\circ} 37' 30''$

Variation by the  
mean of three  
compasses,  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{A.M. } 23^{\circ} 34' 3'' \\ \text{P.M. } 22^{\circ} 19' 40'' \end{array} \right\} \text{mean } 22^{\circ} 56' 51'' \text{ East.}$

The Northernmost part of the coast that we could see from this station, I judged to lie in the latitude of  $60^{\circ}$ . It seemed to form a low point, which obtained the name of *Shoal Nefs*.

The tide of flood sets to the North, and the ebb to the South. It rises and falls, upon a perpendicular, five or six feet; and I reckon it to be high-water, on the full and change days, at eight o'clock.

Tuesday 21. Having weighed at three in the morning on the 21st, with a light breeze at North North West, we steered back to the Southward, having three boats ahead to direct us. But, notwithstanding this precaution, we found more difficulty in returning than we had in advancing; and at last were obliged to anchor, to avoid running upon a shoal, which had only a depth of five feet. While we lay here, twenty-seven men of the country, each in a canoe, came off to the ships, which they approached with great caution; hollowing



hollowing and opening their arms as they advanced. This, we understood, was to express their pacific intentions. At length some approached near enough to receive a few trifles that were thrown to them. This encouraged the rest to venture along-side; and a traffic presently commenced between them and our people; who got dresses of skins, bows, arrows, darts, wooden vessels, &c.; our visitors taking in exchange for these whatever was offered them. They seemed to be the same sort of people that we had of late met with all along this coast; wore the same kind of ornaments in their lips and noses; but were far more dirty, and not so well clothed. They appeared to be wholly unacquainted with people like us; they knew not the use of tobacco; nor was any foreign article seen in their possession, unless a knife may be looked upon as such. This, indeed, was only a piece of common iron fitted in a wooden handle, so as to answer the purpose of a knife. They, however, knew the value and use of this instrument so well, that it seemed to be the only article they wished for. Most of them had their hair shaved, or cut short off, leaving only a few locks behind, or on one side. For a covering for the head they wore a hood of skins, and a bonnet which appeared to be of wood. One part of their dress, which we got from them, was a kind of girdle, very neatly made of skin, with trappings depending from it, and passing between the legs, so as to conceal the adjoining parts. By the use of such a girdle, it should seem that they sometimes go naked, even in this high latitude; for they hardly wear it under their other clothing.

The canoes were made of skins, like all the others we had lately seen; only with this difference, that these were broader, and the hole in which the man sits, was wider than

1778.  
July.





1778.  
July.

than in any I had before met with. Our boats returning from sounding seemed to alarm them; so that they all left us sooner than probably they would otherwise have done.

Wednes. 22. It was the 22d in the evening before we got clear of these shoals, and then I durst not venture to steer to the Westward in the night, but spent it off Cape Newenham; and at day-

Thursday 23. break, next morning, steered to the North West, ordering the Discovery to lead. Before we had run two leagues, our depth of water decreased to six fathoms. Fearing if we continued this course, that we should find less and less water, I hauled to the Southward; the wind being at East, a fresh breeze. This course brought us gradually into eighteen fathoms, and, having that depth, I ventured to steer a little Westerly; and afterward West, when we at last found twenty-six fathoms water.

Friday 24. On the 24th at noon we were, by observation, in the latitude of  $58^{\circ} 7'$ , and in the longitude of  $194^{\circ} 22'$ . Three leagues to the Westward of this station we had twenty-eight fathoms water, and then steered West North West, the water gradually deepening to thirty-four fathoms. I would have steered more Northerly, but the wind having veered in that direction, I could not.

Saturday 25. The 25th in the evening, having a very thick fog, and but little wind, we dropped anchor in thirty fathoms water. Our latitude was now  $58^{\circ} 29'$ , and our longitude  $191^{\circ} 37'$ .

Sunday 26. At six, the next morning, the weather clearing up a little, we weighed, and, with a small breeze at East, steered North; our soundings being from twenty-eight to twenty-five fathoms. After running nine leagues upon this course, the wind returned back to the North, which obliged us to steer more Westerly.

The



The weather continued, for the most part, foggy, till toward noon on the 28th, when we had a few hours clear sun-shine; during which we made several lunar observations. The mean result of them, reduced to noon, when the latitude was  $59^{\circ} 55'$ , gave  $190^{\circ} 6'$  longitude; and the time-keeper gave  $189^{\circ} 59'$ . The variation of the compass was  $18^{\circ} 40'$  East. Continuing our Westerly course, the water having now deepened to thirty-six fathoms, at four o'clock next morning, we discovered land, bearing North West by West, six leagues distant. We stood toward it till half past ten, when we tacked in twenty-four fathoms water; being, at this time, a league from the land, which bore North North West. It was the South East extremity, and formed a perpendicular cliff of considerable height; on which account it was called *Point Upright*, and lies in the latitude of  $60^{\circ} 17'$ , and in the longitude of  $187^{\circ} 30'$ . More land was seen to the Westward of the Point; and, at a clear interval, we saw another elevated portion of land, in the direction of West by South; and this seemed to be entirely separated from the other. Here we met with an incredible number of birds, all as the awk kind before described.

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July.  
Tuesday 28.

Wednes. 29.

We had baffling light winds all the afternoon, so that we made but little progress; and the weather was not clear enough to enable us to determine the extent of the land before us. We supposed it to be one of the many islands laid down by Mr. Stæhlin in his map of the New Northern Archipelago; and we expected every moment to see more of them.

At four in the afternoon of the 30th, Point Upright bore North West by North, six leagues distant. About this time, a light breeze springing up at North North West, we stood to the North East till four o'clock next morning, when the wind

Thursday 30.





1778.  
July.August.  
Saturday 1.

wind veering to the Eastward, we tacked, and stood to the North West. Soon after the wind came to South East; and we steered North East by North; which course we continued, with soundings from thirty-five to twenty fathoms, till next day at noon. At this time we were in the latitude of  $60^{\circ} 53'$ , and in the longitude of  $191^{\circ}$ . The wind now veering to North East, I first made a stretch of ten leagues to the North West; and then, seeing no land in that direction, I stood back to the Eastward about fifteen leagues, and met with nothing but pieces of drift-wood. The soundings were from twenty-two to nineteen fathoms.

Sunday 2.

Monday 3.

Variable, light winds, with showers of rain, prevailed all the 2d; but fixing in the South East quarter, in the morning of the 3d, we resumed our course to the Northward. At noon we were, by observation, in the latitude of  $62^{\circ} 34'$ , our longitude was  $192^{\circ}$ ; and our depth of water sixteen fathoms.

Mr. Anderson, my surgeon, who had been lingering under a consumption for more than twelve months, expired between three and four this afternoon. He was a sensible young man, an agreeable companion, well skilled in his own profession; and had acquired considerable knowledge in other branches of science. The reader of this Journal will have observed how useful an assistant I had found him in the course of the voyage; and had it pleased God to have spared his life, the Public, I make no doubt, might have received from him such communications, on various parts of the natural history of the several places we visited, as would have abundantly shewn, that he was not unworthy of this commendation\*. Soon after he had breathed his last, land

\* Mr. Anderson's Journal seems to have been discontinued for about two months before his death; the last date in his MSS. being of the 3d of June.

was





was seen to the Westward, twelve leagues distant. It was supposed to be an island; and, to perpetuate the memory of the deceased, for whom I had a very great regard, I named it *Anderson's Island*. The next day, I removed Mr. Law, the surgeon of the Discovery, into the Resolution, and appointed Mr. Samuel, the Surgeon's first mate of the Resolution, to be Surgeon of the Discovery.

1778.  
August.

On the 4th, at three in the afternoon, land was seen, extending from North North East to North West. We stood on toward it till four o'clock, when, being four or five miles from it, we tacked; and, soon after, the wind falling, we anchored in thirteen fathoms water, over a sandy bottom; being about two leagues from the land, and, by our reckoning, in the latitude of  $64^{\circ} 27'$ , and in the longitude of  $194^{\circ} 18'$ . At intervals, we could see the coast extending from East to North West, and a pretty high island, bearing West by North, three leagues distant.

Tuesday 4.

The land before us, which we supposed to be the continent of America, appeared low next the sea; but, inland, it swelled into hills, which rise, one behind another, to a considerable height. It had a greenish hue, but seemed destitute of wood, and free from snow. While we lay at anchor, we found that the flood-tide came from the East, and set to the West, till between ten and eleven o'clock. From that time, till two the next morning, the stream set to the Eastward, and the water fell three feet. The flood ran both stronger and longer than the ebb; from which I concluded, that, besides the tide, there was a Westerly current.

At ten in the morning of the 5th, with the wind at South West, we ran down, and anchored between the island and the continent, in seven fathoms water. Soon after, I landed

Wednes. 5.





1778.  
August.

upon the island, accompanied by Mr. King and some others of the officers. I hoped to have had from it a view of the coast and sea to the Westward; but the fog was so thick in that direction, that the prospect was not more extensive than from the ship. The coast of the continent seemed to take a turn to the Northward, at a low point named *Point Rodney*, which bore from the island North West half West, three or four leagues distant; but the high land, which took a more Northerly direction, was seen a great way farther.

This island, which was named *Sledge Island*, and lies in the latitude of  $64^{\circ} 30'$ , and in the longitude of  $193^{\circ} 57'$ , is about four leagues in circuit. The surface of the ground is composed chiefly of large loose stones, that are, in many places, covered with moss and other vegetables, of which there were above twenty or thirty different sorts, and most of them in flower. But I saw neither shrub nor tree, either upon the island, or on the continent. On a small low spot, near the beach where we landed, was a good deal of wild purslain, pease, long-wort, &c.; some of which we took on board for the pot. We saw one fox; a few plovers, and some other small birds; and we met with some decayed huts that were partly built below ground. People had lately been on the island; and it is pretty clear, that they frequently visit it for some purpose or other, as there was a beaten path from the one end to the other. We found, a little way from the shore where we landed, a sledge, which occasioned this name being given to the island. It seemed to be such a one as the Russians in Kamtschatka make use of to convey goods from place to place, over the ice or snow. It was ten feet long, twenty inches broad; and had a kind of rail-work on each side, and was shod with bone. The construction of it was admirable, and all the parts neatly put together; some with



with wooden pins, but mostly with thongs or lashings of whale-bone, which made me think it was entirely the workmanship of the natives.

1778.  
August.

At three o'clock, the next morning, we weighed, and proceeded to the North Westward, with a light Southerly breeze. We had an opportunity to observe the sun's meridian altitude for the latitude; and to get altitude, both in the forenoon and afternoon, to obtain the longitude by the time-keeper. As we had but little wind, and variable withal, we advanced but slowly; and, at eight in the evening, finding the ships settle fast toward the land into shoal water, I anchored in seven fathoms, about two leagues from the coast. Sledge Island bore South,  $51^{\circ}$  East, ten leagues distant; and was seen over the South point of the main land.

Thursday 6.

Soon after we had anchored, the weather, which had been misty, clearing up, we saw high land extending from North,  $40^{\circ}$  East, to North,  $30^{\circ}$  West, apparently disjoined from the coast, under which we were at anchor, which seemed to trend away North East. At the same time, an island was seen bearing North  $81^{\circ}$  West, eight or nine leagues distant. It appeared to have no great extent, and was named *King's Island*. We rode here till eight o'clock, next morning, when we weighed, and stood to the North West. The weather clearing up toward the evening, we got sight of the North West land, extending from North by West, to North West by North, distant about three leagues. We spent the night making short boards, the weather being misty and rainy, with little wind; and, between four and five of the morning of the 8th, we had again a sight of the North West land; and, soon after, on account of a calm, and a current driving us toward the shore, we found

Friday 7.

Saturday 8.





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it necessary to anchor in twelve fathoms water, about two miles from the coast. Over the Western extreme is an elevated peaked hill, situated in latitude  $65^{\circ} 36'$ , and in longitude  $192^{\circ} 18'$ . A breeze at North East springing up at eight o'clock, we weighed, and stood to the South East, in hopes of finding a passage between the coast on which we had anchored on the 6th in the evening, and this North West land. But we soon got into seven fathoms water, and discovered low land connecting the two coasts, and the high land behind it.

Sunday 9.

Being now satisfied that the whole was a continued coast, I tacked, and stood away for its North West part, and came to an anchor under it in seventeen fathoms water. The weather, at this time, was very thick with rain; but, at four next morning, it cleared up, so that we could see the land about us. A high steep rock or island bore West by South; another island to the North of it, and much larger, bore West by North; the peaked hill above mentioned, South East by East; and the point under it, South,  $32^{\circ}$  East. Under this hill lies some low land, stretching out toward the North West, the extreme point of which, bore North East by East, about three miles distant. Over, and beyond it, some high land was seen, supposed to be a continuation of the continent.

This point of land, which I named *Cape Prince of Wales*, is the more remarkable, by being the Western extremity of all America hitherto known. It is situated in the latitude of  $65^{\circ} 46'$ , and in the longitude of  $191^{\circ} 45'$ . The observations by which both were determined, though made in sight of it, were liable to some small error, on account of the haziness of the weather. We thought we saw  
some



some people upon the coast; and probably we were not mistaken, as some elevations, like stages, and others like huts, were seen at the same place. We saw the same things on the continent within Sledge Island, and on some other parts of the Coast.

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It was calm till eight o'clock in the morning, when a faint breeze at North springing up, we weighed. But we had scarcely got our sails set, when it began to blow and rain very hard, with misty weather. The wind and current, being in contrary directions, raised such a sea, that it frequently broke into the ship. We had a few minutes sunshine at noon; and from the observation then obtained, we fixed the above-mentioned latitude.

Having plied to windward till two in the afternoon, with little effect, I bore up for the island we had seen to the Westward, proposing to come to an anchor under it till the gale should cease. But on getting to this land, we found it composed of two small islands, each not above three or four leagues in circuit; and consequently they could afford us little shelter. Instead of anchoring, therefore, we continued to stretch to the Westward; and, at eight o'clock, land was seen in that direction, extending from North North West, to West by South, the nearest part six leagues distant. I stood on till ten, and then made a board to the Eastward, in order to spend the night.

At day-break in the morning of the 10th, we resumed our course to the West for the land we had seen the preceding evening. At eleven minutes after seven, when the longitude, by the time-keeper, was  $189^{\circ} 24'$ , it extended from South,  $72^{\circ}$  West, to North,  $41^{\circ}$  East. Between the South West extreme, and a point which bore West, two leagues distant,

Monday 10.





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tant, the shore forms a large bay, in which we anchored at ten o'clock in the forenoon, about two miles from the North shore, in ten fathoms water, over a gravelly bottom. The South point of the bay bore South,  $58^{\circ}$  West; the North point North,  $43^{\circ}$  East; the bottom of the bay North,  $60^{\circ}$  West, two or three leagues distant; and the two islands we had passed the preceding day, North,  $72^{\circ}$  East, distant fourteen leagues.

