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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. I.

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VOYAGE

TOTHE

PACIFIC OCEAN.

BOOK IV.

Transactions amongst the Natives of North America; Discoveries along that Coast and the Eastern Extremity of Asia, Northward to Icy Cape; and Return Southward to the Sandwich Islands.

CHAP. I.

The Ships enter the Sound, and moor in a Harbour. - Intercourse with the Natives .- Articles brought to barter. -Thefts committed. The Observatories erected, and Carpenters Set to work .- Jealousy of the Inhabitants of the Sound to prevent other Tribes having Intercourse with the Ships .- Stormy and rainy Weather .- Progress round the Sound .- Behaviour of the Natives at their Villages. -Their Manner of drying Fish, &c .- Remarkable Visit from Strangers, and introductory Ceremonies .- A second Visit to one of the Villages .- Leave to cut Grass, purchased. -The Ships Sail .- Presents given and received at parting.

THE ships having happily found so excellent shelter in an inlet, the coasts of which appeared to be inhabited by a race of people, whose inoffensive behaviour promised a friendly intercourse, the next morn- Monday 30.

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ing, after coming to anchor, I loft no time in endeavouring to find a commodious harbour where we might flation ourfelves during our continuance in the Sound. Accordingly, I fent three armed boats, under the command of Mr. King, upon this fervice; and foon after, I went myfelf, in a fmall boat, on the same search. I had very little trouble in finding what we wanted. On the North West of the arm we were now in, and not far from the ships, I met with a convenient fnug cove well fuited to our purpofe. Mr. King was equally fuccefsful; for he returned about noon, with an account of a still better harbour, which he had feen and examined, lying on the North West fide of the land. But as it would have required more time to carry the ships thither, than to the cove where I had been, which was immediately within our reach; this reason operated to determine my choice in favour of the latter fituation. But being apprehensive, that we should not be able to transport our ships to it, and to moor them properly, before night came on, I thought it best to remain where we were till next morning; and, that no time might be loft, I employed the remainder of the day to fome useful purposes, ordering the fails to be unbent, the top-masts to be struck, and the foremast of the Resolution to be unrigged, in order to fix a new bib, one of the old ones being decayed.

A great many canoes, filled with the natives, were about the ships all day; and a trade commenced betwixt us and them, which was carried on with the strictest honesty on both sides. The articles which they offered to sale were skins of various animals, such as bears, wolves, soxes, deer, rackoons, polecats, martins; and, in particular, of the sea otters, which are found at the islands East of Kamtschatka. Besides the skins in their native shape, they also brought garments made of them, and another fort of cloth-

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ing made of the bark of a tree, or some plant like hemp; weapons, fuch as bows, arrows, and fpears; fifh-hooks, and inftruments of various kinds; wooden vizors of many different monstrous figures; a fort of woollen stuff, or blanketing; bags filled with red ochre; pieces of carved work; beads; and feveral other little ornaments of thin brafs and iron, shaped like a horfe-shoe, which they hang at their nofes; and several chiffels, or pieces of iron, fixed to handles. From their poffeffing which metals, we could infer that they had either been visited before by some civilized nation, or had connections with tribes on their continent, who had communication with them. But the most extraordinary of all the articles which they brought to the ships for sale, were human skulls, and hands not yet quite stripped of the slesh, which they made our people plainly understand they had eaten; and, indeed, fome of them had evident marks that they had been upon the fire. We had but too much reason to suspect, from this circumstance, that the horrid practice of feeding on their enemies is as prevalent here, as we had found it to be at New Zealand and other South Sea islands. For the various articles which they brought, they took in exchange knives, chiffels, pieces of iron and tin, nails, looking-glaffes, buttons, or any kind of metal. Glafs beads they were not fond of; and cloth of every fort they rejected.

We employed the next day in hauling our ships into the Tuesday 32. cove, where they were moored head and stern, fastening our hawfers to the trees on fhore. On heaving up the anchor of the Refolution, we found, notwithstanding the great depth of water in which it was let go, that there were rocks at the bottom. These had done some considerable damage to the cable; and the hawfers that were carried out, to

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warp the ship into the cove, also got foul of rocks; from which it appeared that the whole bottom was strewed with them. The ship being again very leaky in her upper works, I ordered the carpenters to go to work to caulk her, and to repair such other defects as, on examination, we might discover.

The fame of our arrival brought a great concourse of the natives to our ships in the course of this day. We counted above a hundred canoes at one time, which might be fupposed to contain, at an average, five persons each; for few of them had lefs than three on board; great numbers had feven, eight, or nine; and one was manned with no lefs than feventeen. Amongst these visiters, many now favoured us with their company for the first time, which we could guess, from their approaching the ships with their orations and other ceremonies. If they had any diffrust or fear of us at first, they now appeared to have laid it aside; for they came on board the ships, and mixed with our people with the greatest freedom. We foon discovered, by this nearer intercourfe, that they were as light-fingered as any of our friends in the islands we had visited in the course of the voyage. And they were far more dangerous thieves; for, possessing sharp iron instruments, they could cut a hook from a tackle, or any other piece of iron from a rope, the inftant that our backs were turned. A large hook, weighing between twenty and thirty pounds, feveral fmaller ones, and other articles of iron, were loft in this manner. And, as to our boats, they stripped them of every bit of iron that was worth carrying away, though we had always men left in them as a guard. They were dextrous enough in effecting their purposes; for one fellow would contrive to amuse the boat-keeper, at one end of a boat, while another

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other was pulling out the iron work at the other. If we missed a thing immediately after it had been stolen, we found little dissiculty in detecting the thief, as they were ready enough to impeach one another. But the guilty perfon generally relinquished his prize with reluctance; and sometimes we found it necessary to have recourse to force.

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The ships being securely moored, we began our other necessary business the next day. The observatories were carried ashore, and placed upon an elevated rock on one side of the cove, close to the Resolution. A party of men, with an officer, was sent to cut wood, and to clear a place for the conveniency of watering. Others were employed to brew spruce-beer, as pine trees abounded here. The forge was also set up, to make the iron-work wanting for the repairs of the fore-mast. For, besides one of the bibs being defective, the larboard tresserves, and one of the cross-trees were sprung.

April. Vednef. 1.

A confiderable number of the natives vifited us daily; and, every now and then, we faw new faces. On their first coming, they generally went through a fingular mode of introducing themselves. They would paddle, with all their strength, quite round both ships, a Chief, or other principal person in the canoe, standing up with a spear, or some other weapon, in his hand, and fpeaking, or rather hollowing, all the time. Sometimes the orator of the canoe would have his face covered with a mask, representing either a human vifage, or that of fome animal; and, instead of a weapon, would hold a rattle in his hand, as before defcribed. After making this circuit round the ships, they would come along-fide, and begin to trade without further ceremony. Very often, indeed, they would first give us a VOL. II. Nn fong,

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fong, in which all in the canoe joined, with a very pleafing harmony.

Saturday 4.

During these visits, they gave us no other trouble, than to guard against their thievish tricks. But, in the morning of the 4th, we had a ferious alarm. Our party on shore, who were employed in cutting wood, and filling water, observed, that the natives all around them were arming themselves in the best manner they could; those, who were not poffeffed of proper weapons, preparing flicks, and collecting stones. On hearing this, I thought it prudent to arm also; but, being determined to act upon the defenfive, I ordered all our workmen to retreat to the rock, upon which we had placed our observatories; leaving the natives in quiet possession of the ground where they had assembled, which was within a stone's throw of the Resolution's stern. Our fears were ill-grounded: these hostile preparations were not directed against us, but against a body of their own countrymen, who were coming to fight them; and our friends of the Sound, on observing our apprehensions, used their best endeavours to convince us that this was the case. We could fee, that they had people looking out, on each point of the cove, and canoes frequently passed between them and the main body affembled near the ships. At length, the adverse party, in about a dozen large canoes, appeared off the South point of the cove, where they flopped, and lay drawn up in line of battle, a negociation having commenced. Some people in canoes, in conducting the treaty, passed between the two parties, and there was some fpeaking on both fides. At length, the difference, whatever it was, feemed to be compromised; but the strangers. were not allowed to come along-fide the ships, nor to have any trade or intercourse with us. Probably we were the cause

cause of the quarrel; the strangers, perhaps, being desirous to share in the advantages of a trade with us; and our first friends, the inhabitants of the Sound, being determined to engross us entirely to themselves. We had proofs of this on several other occasions; nay, it appeared, that even those who lived in the Sound were not united in the same cause; for the weaker were frequently obliged to give way to the stronger party, and plundered of every thing, without attempting to make the least resistance.

We refumed our work in the afternoon, and, the next sunday 5. day, rigged the fore-mast; the head of which being rather too fmall for the cap, the carpenter went to work, to fix a piece on one fide, to fill up the vacant space. In cutting into the mast-head for this purpose, and examining the state of it, both cheeks were found to be fo rotten, that there was no possibility of repairing them; and it became necessary to get the mast out, and to fix new ones upon it. It was evident, that one of the cheeks had been defective at the first, and that the unfound part had been cut out, and a piece put in; which had not only weakened the mast-head, but had, in a great measure, been the occasion of rotting every other part of both cheeks. Thus, when we were almost ready to put to fea, we had all our work to do over again; and, what was still more provoking, an additional repair was to be undertaken, which would require fome time to be completed. But, as there was no remedy, we immediately fet about it. It was fortunate for the voyage, that these defects were difcovered, when we were in a place, where the materials requifite were to be procured. For, amongst the driftwood, in the cove where the ships lay, were some small seafoned trees very fit for our purpose. One of these was pitched upon; and the carpenters began, without loss of time, to make out of it two new cheeks.

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Tueiday 7.

In the morning of the 7th, we got the fore-mast out, and hauled it ashore; and the carpenters of the ships were set to work upon it. Some parts of the lower standing rigging having been found to be very much decayed, as we had time now to put them in order, while the carpenters were repairing the fore mast, I ordered a new set of main-rigging to be sitted, and a more perfect set of fore-rigging to be selected out of the best parts of the old.

Wednef. 8.

From the time of our putting into the Sound till now, the weather had been exceedingly fine, without either wind or rain. That comfort, at the very moment when the continuance of it would have been of most service, was withdrawn. In the morning of the 8th, the wind freshened at South East, attended with thick hazy weather and rain. In the afternoon the wind increased; and, toward the evening, it blew very hard indeed. It came, in excessively heavy fqualls, from over the high land on the opposite shore, right into the cove; and, though the ships were very well moored, put them in some danger. These tempestuous blasts fucceeded each other pretty quick; but they were of short duration; and in the intervals between them we had a perfect calm. According to the old proverb, Misfortunes feldom come fingle; the mizen was now the only mast on board the Refolution that remained rigged, with its topmast up. The former was so defective, that it could not support the latter during the violence of the squalls, but gave way at the head under the rigging. About eight o'clock the gale abated; but the rain continued with very little intermission for several days; and, that the carpenters might be enabled to proceed in their labours, while it prevailed, a tent was erected over the fore-mast, where they could work with fome degree of convenience.

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The bad weather which now came on, did not, however, hinder the natives from vifiting us daily; and, in fuch circumflances, their vifits were very advantageous to us. For they frequently brought us a tolerable fupply of fish, when we could not catch any ourfelves with hook and line; and there was not a proper place near us where we could draw. a net. The fish which they brought us were either fardines; or what refembled them much, a fmall kind of bream; and fometimes imall cod.

On the 11th, notwithstanding the rainy weather, the main- Saturday 11. rigging was fixed and got over head; and our employment, the day after, was to take down the mizen-mast, the head Sunday 12. of which proved to be fo rotten, that it dropped off while in the flings. In the evening we were vifited by a tribe of natives whom we had never feen before; and who, in general, were better looking people than most of our old friends, fome of whom attended them. I prevailed upon these visiters to go down into the cabin for the first time; and observed, that there was not a single object that fixed the attention of most of them for a moment; their countenances marking, that they looked upon all our novelties with the utmost indifference. This, however, was not without exception; for a few of the company shewed a certain degree of curiofity.

In the afternoon of the next day, I went into the woods Monday 13. with a party of our men, and cut down a tree for a mizenmast. On the day following, it was brought to the place Tuesday 14. where the carpenters were employed upon the fore-maft. In the evening the wind, which had been, for fome time, Westerly, veered to South East, and increased to a very hard gale, with rain, which continued till eight o'clock the next Wednef. 15. morning, when it abated, and veered again to the West.

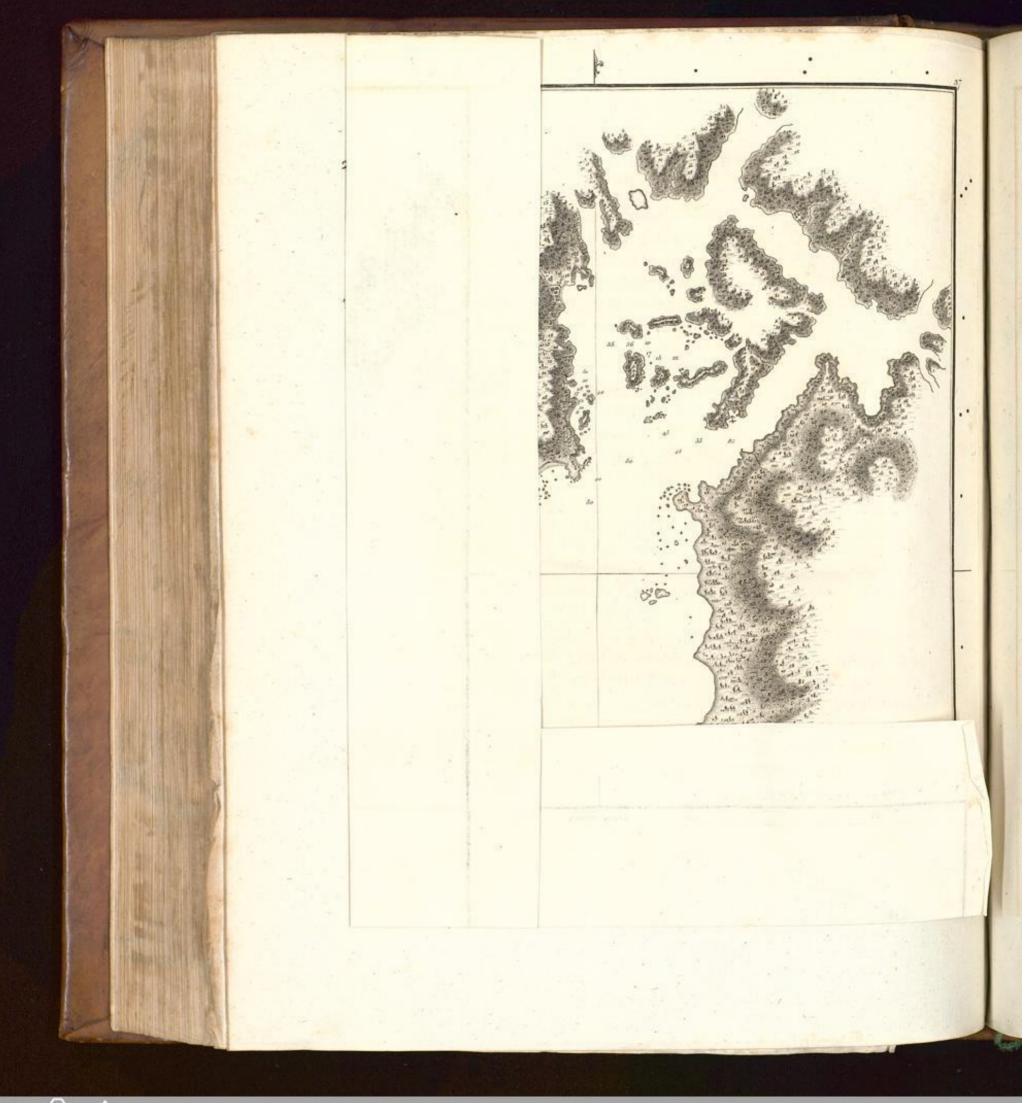
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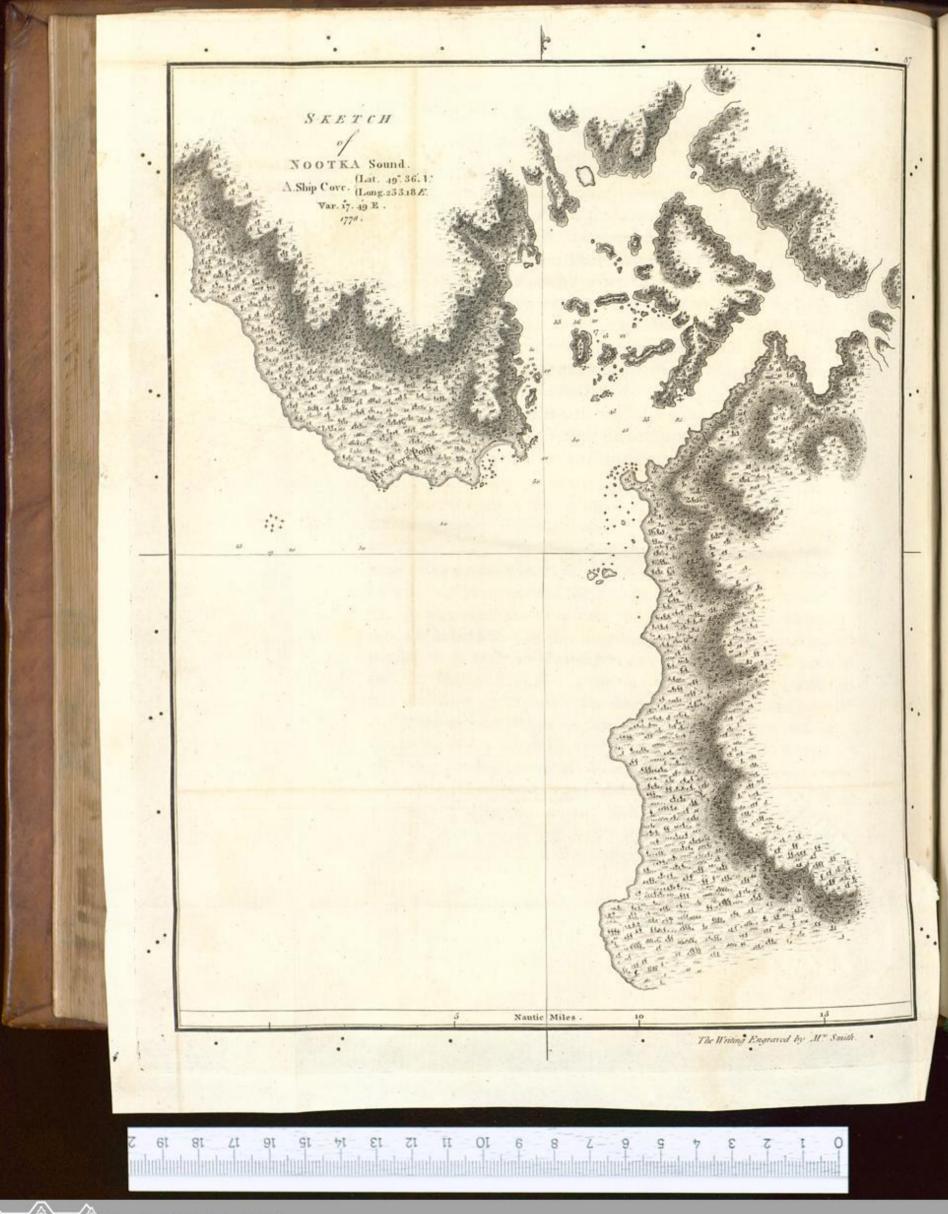
The fore-mast being, by this time, finished, we hauled it along-fide; but the bad weather prevented our getting it in till the afternoon; and we fet about rigging it with the greatest-expedition, while the carpenters were going on with the mizen-maft on fhore. They had made very confiderable Thursday 16. progress in it on the 16th; when they discovered, that the flick upon which they were at work was fprung, or wounded; owing, as supposed, to some accident in cutting it down. So that all their labour was thrown away; and it became necessary to get another tree out of the woods, which employed all hands above half a day. During these various operations, feveral of the natives, who were about the ships, looked on with an expressive filent surprize, which we did not expect, from their general indifference and inattention.

Saturday 18.

On the 18th, a party of strangers, in fix or eight canoes, came into the cove, where they remained, looking at us, for fome time; and then retired, without coming alongfide either ship. We supposed, that our old friends, who were more numerous, at this time, about us, than these new vifiters, would not permit them to have any intercourfe with us. It was evident, upon this and feveral other occasions, that the inhabitants of the adjoining parts of the Sound engroffed us entirely to themselves; or if, at any time, they did not hinder strangers from trading with us, they contrived to manage the trade for them in fuch a manner, that the price of their commodities was always kept up, while the value of ours was leffening every day. We also found, that many of the principal natives, who lived near us, carried on a trade with more distant tribes, in the articles they had procured from us. For we observed, that they would frequently disappear for four or five days at a time, and then return with fresh cargoes of skins and curiosities, which







which our people were fo passionately fond of, that they always came to a good marker. But we received most benefit from fuch of the natives as visited us daily. These, after disposing of all their little trifles, turned their attention to fishing; and we never failed to partake of what they caught. We also got from these people a considerable quantity of very good animal oil, which they had referved in bladders. In this traffic fome would attempt to cheat us, by mixing water with the oil; and, once or twice, they had the address to carry their imposition so far, as to fill their bladders with mere water, without a fingle drop of oil. It was always better to bear with these tricks, than to make them the foundation of a quarrel; for our articles of traffic confifted, for the most part, of mere trisles; and yet we were put to our shifts to find a constant supply even of these. Beads, and fuch other toys, of which I had ftill fome left, were in little estimation. Nothing would go down with our vifiters but metal; and brafs had, by this time, fupplanted iron; being so eagerly sought after, that before we left this place, hardly a bit of it was left in the ships, except what belonged to our necessary instruments. Whole fuits of clothes were stripped of every button; bureaus of their furniture; and copper kettles, tin cannifters, candleflicks, and the like, all went to wreck; fo that our American friends here got a greater medley and variety of things from us, than any other nation whom we had vifited in the course of the voyage.

After a fortnight's bad weather, the 19th proving a fair sunday 19th day, we availed ourselves of it, to get up the top-masts and yards, and to fix up the rigging. And, having now finished most of our heavy work, I set out the next morning to take Monday 20, a view of the Sound. I first went to the West point, where

I found



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From this village I proceeded up the West side of the Sound. For about three miles, I found the shore covered with small islands, which are so situated as to form several convenient harbours, having various depths of water, from thirty to seven fathoms, with a good bottom. Two leagues within

within the Sound, on this West side, there runs in an arm in the direction of North North West; and two miles farther, is another nearly in the fame direction, with a pretty large island before it. I had no time to examine either of these arms; but have reason to believe, that they do not extend far inland, as the water was no more than brackish at their entrances. A mile above the fecond arm, I found the remains of a village. The logs or framings of the houses were flanding; but the boards that had composed their fides and roofs did not exist. Before this village were some large fishing wears; but I faw nobody attending them. These wears were composed of pieces of wicker-work made of fmall rods, fome closer than others, according to the fize of the fish intended to be caught in them. These pieces of wicker-work (some of whose superficies are, at least, twenty feet by twelve), are fixed up edgewife in shallow water, by strong poles or pickets, that stand firm in the ground. Behind this ruined village is a plain of a few acres extent, covered with the largest pine-trees that I ever faw. This was more remarkable, as the elevated ground, on most other parts of this West side of the Sound, was rather naked.

From this place, I croffed over to the other, or East side of the Sound, passing an arm of it that runs in North North East, to appearance not far. I now found, what I had before conjectured, that the land, under which the ships lay, was an island; and that there were many smaller ones lying scattered in the Sound on the West side of it. Opposite the North end of our large island, upon the main land, I observed a village, and there I landed. The inhabitants of it were not so polite as those of the other I had just visited. But this cold reception seemed, in a great measure, if not entirely, owing to one surly Chief, who would not let me Vol. II.

1778. April. 1778. April. enter their houses, following me wherever I went; and several times, by expressive signs, marking his impatience that I should be gone. I attempted in vain to sooth him by presents; but though he did not refuse them, they did not alter his behaviour. Some of the young women, better pleased with us than was their inhospitable Chief, dressed themselves expeditiously in their best apparel, and, assembling in a body, welcomed us to their village, by joining in a song, which was far from harsh or disagreeable.

The day being now far spent, I proceeded for the ships, round the North end of the large island; meeting, in my way, with several canoes laden with fardines, which had been just caught, somewhere in the East corner of the Sound, When I got on board, I was informed, that, while I was absent, the ships had been visited by some strangers, in two or three large canoes, who, by signs, made our people understand that they had come from the South East, beyond the bay. They brought several skins, garments, and other articles, which they bartered. But what was most singular, two silver table-spoons were purchased from them, which, from their peculiar shape, we supposed to be of Spanish manufacture. One of these strangers were them round his neck, by way of ornament. These visiters also appeared to be more plentifully supplied with iron than the inhabitants of the Sound.

Tuefday 21. on the 21st; and the carpenters were fet to work to make a new fore-top-mast, to replace the one that had been carried away some time before.

Wednef. 22. Next morning, about eight o'clock, we were visited by a number of strangers, in twelve or fourteen canoes. They came into the cove from the Southward; and as soon as they had turned the point of it, they stopped, and lay drawn

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drawn up in a body above half an hour, about two or three hundred yards from the ships. At first, we thought, that they were afraid to come nearer; but we were mistaken in this, and they were only preparing an introductory ceremony. On advancing toward the ships, they all stood up in their canoes, and began to fing. Some of their fongs, in which the whole body joined, were in a flow, and others in in quicker time; and they accompanied their notes with the most regular motions of their hands; or beating in concert, with their paddles, on the fides of the canoes; and making other very expressive gestures. At the end of each fong, they remained filent a few feconds, and then began again, fometimes pronouncing the word boose! forcibly, as a chorus. After entertaining us with this specimen of their music, which we listened to with admiration, for above half an hour, they came along fide the ships, and bartered what they had to dispose of. Some of our old friends of the Sound, were now found to be amongst them; and they took the whole management of the traffic between us and the strangers, much to the advantage of the latter.

Our attendance on these visiters being finished, Captain Clerke and I went, in the forenoon, with two boats, to the village at the West point of the Sound. When I was there the day before, I had observed, that plenty of grass grew near it; and it was necessary to lay in a quantity of this, as food for the few goats and sheep which were still left on board. The inhabitants received us with the same demonstrations of friendship which I had experienced before; and the moment we landed, I ordered some of my people to begin their operation of cutting. I had not the least imagination, that the natives could make any objection to our furnishing ourselves with what seemed to be of no use to them,

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but was necessary for us. However, I was mistaken; for, the moment that our men began to cut, fome of the inhabitants interposed, and would not permit them to proceed, faying they must " makook;" that is, must first buy it. I was now in one of the houses; but as soon as I heard of this, I went to the field, where I found about a dozen of the natives, each of whom laid claim to some part of the grass that grew in this place. I bargained with them for it, and having completed the purchase, thought that we were now at liberty to cut wherever we pleafed. But here, again, it appeared, that I was under a mistake; for the liberal manner in which I had paid the first pretended proprietors, brought fresh demands upon me from others; so that there did not feem to be a fingle blade of grass, that had not a feparate owner; and fo many of them were to be fatisfied, that I very foon emptied my pockets. When they found, that I really had nothing more to give, their importunities ceased, and we were permitted to cut wherever we pleased, and as much as we chose to carry away.

Here I must observe, that I have no where, in my several voyages, met with any uncivilized nation, or tribe, who had such strict notions of their having a right to the exclusive property of every thing that their country produces, as the inhabitants of this Sound. At first, they wanted our people to pay for the wood and water that they carried on board; and had I been upon the spot, when these demands were made, I should certainly have complied with them. Our workmen, in my absence, thought differently; for they took but little notice of such claims; and the natives, when they found that we were determined to pay nothing, at last ceased to apply. But they made a merit of necessity; and frequently afterward, took occasion to remind

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mind us, that they had given us wood and water out of friendship*.

During the time I was at this village, Mr. Webber, who had attended me thither, made drawings of every thing that was curious, both within and without doors. I had also an opportunity of inspecting, more narrowly, the conflruction of the houses, household furniture, and utenfils, and the striking peculiarities of the customs and modes of living of the inhabitants. These shall be described in another place, in the best manner I can, calling in to my affistance the observations of Mr. Anderson. When we had completed all our operations at this village, the natives and we parted very good friends; and we got back to the ships in the afternoon.

The three following days were employed in getting ready Thursday 23. to put to fea; the fails were bent; the observatories and in- Saturday 25. flruments, brewing vessels, and other things, were moved from the shore; some small spars, for different uses, and pieces of timber, which might be occasionally fawn into boards, were prepared and put on board; and both ships were cleared, and put into a failing condition.

Every thing being now ready, in the morning of the 26th, Sunday 26. I intended to have put to sea; but both wind and tide being against us, was obliged to wait till noon, when the South West wind was succeeded by a calm; and the tide turning

* Similar to the behaviour of the natives of Nootka, on this occasion, was that of another tribe of Indians, farther North, in latitude 57 18', to the Spaniards, who had preceded Captain Cook only three years, in a voyage to explore the coast of America, Northward of California. See the journal of that voyage, writ by the fecond pilot of the fleet, and published by the Honourable Mr. Daines Barrington, to whom the literary world owes fo many obligations. Miscellanies, p. 505, 506.



in our favour, we cast off the moorings, and with our boats towed the ships out of the cove. After this, we had variable light airs and calms, till four in the afternoon, when a breeze sprung up Northerly, with very thick, hazy weather. The mercury in the barometer fell unusually low; and we had every other fore-runner of an approaching storm, which we had reason to expect would be from the Southward. This made me hesitate a little, as night was at hand, whether I should venture to fail, or wait till the next morning. But my anxious impatience to proceed upon the voyage, and the fear of losing this opportunity of getting out of the Sound, making a greater impression on my mind, than any apprehension of immediate danger, I determined to put to sea at all events.

Our friends, the natives, attended us, till we were almost out of the Sound; fome on board the ships, and others in their canoes. One of their Chiefs, who had, fome time before, attached himfelf to me, was amongst the last who left us. Having, before he went, bestowed upon him a small present, I received in return, a beaver-skin, of much greater value. This called upon me to make fome addition to my present, which pleased him so much, that he insisted upon my acceptance of the beaver-skin cloak which he then wore; and of which I knew he was particularly fond. Struck with this inflance of generofity, and defirous that he should be no sufferer by his friendship to me, I presented to him a new broad-fword, with a brafs hilt; the possession of which made him completely happy. He, and also many others of his countrymen, importuned us much to pay them another vifit; and, by way of encouragement, promifed to lay in a good flock of fkins. I make no doubt, that whoever comes after me to this place, will find the na-

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tives prepared accordingly, with no inconfiderable fupply of an article of trade, which, they could observe, we were eager to posses; and which we found could be purchased to great advantage.

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Such particulars about the country, and its inhabitants, as came to our knowledge, during our fhort stay, and have not been mentioned in the course of the narrative, will furnish materials for the two following Chapters.

P. A H O CHAP.