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A Voyage Towards The South Pole, And Round The World

Performed In His Majesty's Ships the Resolution and Adventure, In the
Years 1772, 1773, 1774, and 1775 ; In Two Volumes

**Cook, James
Furneaux, ...**

London, 1777

Chap. IX. The Passage from Easter Island to the Marquesas Islands.
Transactions and Incidents which happend while the Ship lay in Madre de
Dios, or Resolution Bay, in the Island of St. Christina.

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C H A P. IX.

*The Passage from Easter Island to the Marquesas Islands.
Transactions and Incidents which happened while the
Ship lay in Madre de Dios, or Resolution Bay, in the
Island of St. Christina.*

AFTER leaving Easter Island, I steered N. W. by N. and N. N. W., with a fine easterly gale, intending to touch at the Marquesas, if I met with nothing before I got there. We had not been long at sea, before the bilious disorder made another attack upon me, but not so violent as the former. I believe this second visit was owing to my exposing and fatiguing myself too much at Easter Island.

1774.
March.
Wednes. 16.

On the 22d, being in the latitude of $19^{\circ} 20'$ South, longitude $114^{\circ} 49'$ West, steered N. W. Since leaving Easter Island, the variation had not been more than $3^{\circ} 4'$, nor less than $2^{\circ} 32'$ East; but on the 26th, in latitude $15^{\circ} 7'$ South, longitude $119^{\circ} 45'$ West, it was no more than $1^{\circ} 1'$ East; after which it began to increase.

Tuesday 22.

On the 29th, being in latitude $10^{\circ} 20'$, longitude $123^{\circ} 58'$ W., altered the course to W. N. W., and the next day to West, being then in latitude $9^{\circ} 24'$, which I judged to be the parallel of Marquesas; where, as I have before observed, I intended to touch, in order to settle their situation, which I find different in different charts. Having now a steady settled trade-wind, and pleasant weather, I ordered the forge to be set up, to repair and make various necessary articles in the iron way;

Tuesday 29.

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Qq

and



1774.
March.

Tuesday 29.

and the caulkers had already been some time at work caulking the decks, weather-works, &c.

April.
Sunday 3.

As we advanced to the West, we found the variation to increase, but slowly; for, on the 3d of April, it was only $4^{\circ} 40'$ East, being then in the latitude $9^{\circ} 32'$, longitude $132^{\circ} 45'$, by observation made at the same time.

Wednes. 6.

I continued to steer to the West till the 6th, at four in the afternoon, at which time, being in the latitude of $9^{\circ} 20'$, longitude $138^{\circ} 14'$ West, we discovered an island, bearing West by South, distant about nine leagues. Two hours after we saw another, bearing S. W. by S., which appeared more extensive than the former. I hauled up for this island, and ran under an easy sail all night, having squally unsettled rainy weather, which is not very uncommon in this sea,

Thursday 7.

when near high land. At six o'clock the next morning, the first island bore N. W., the second S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., and a third W. I gave orders to steer for the separation between the two last; and soon after, a fourth was seen, still more to the West. By this time, we were well assured that these were the Marquesas, discovered by Mendana in 1595. The first isle was a new discovery, which I named Hood's Island, after the young gentleman who first saw it; the second was that of Saint Pedro, the third, La Dominica, and the fourth, St. Christina. We ranged the S. E. coast of La Dominica, without seeing the least signs of anchorage, till we came to the channel that divides it from St. Christina, through which we passed, hauled over for the last-mentioned island, and ran along the coast to the S. W. in search of Mendana's Port. We passed several coves in which there seemed to be anchorage; but a great surf broke on all the shores. Some canoes put off from these places, and followed us down the coast.

At



At length having come before the port we were in search of, we attempted to turn into it, the wind being right out; but as it blew in violent squalls from this high land, one of these took us just after we had put in stays, payed the ship off again, and before she wore round, she was within a few yards of being driven against the rocks to leeward. This obliged us to stand out to sea, and to make a stretch to windward; after which we stood in again, and without attempting to turn, anchored in the entrance of the bay in thirty-four fathoms water, a fine sandy bottom. This was no sooner done than about thirty or forty of the natives came off to us in ten or twelve canoes; but it required some address to get them along-side. At last a hatchet, and some spike-nails, induced the people in one canoe to come under the quarter-gallery: after which all the others put along-side, and having exchanged some bread-fruit, and fish, for small nails, &c. retired ashore, the sun being already set. We observed a heap of stones in the bow of each canoe, and every man to have a sling tied round his hand.

1774.
April.
Thursday 7.

Very early next morning, the natives visited us again in much greater numbers than before; bringing with them bread-fruit, plantains, and one pig, all of which they exchanged for nails, &c. But, in this traffic, they would frequently keep our goods and make no return; till at last I was obliged to fire a musquet-ball over one man who had several times served us in this manner; after which they dealt more fairly, and soon after several of them came on board. At this time we were preparing to warp farther into the bay, and I was going in a boat, to look for the most convenient place to moor the ship in. Observing too many of the natives on board, I said to the officers, "You must look

Friday 8.

Q q 2

" well



1774.
 April.
 Friday 8.

“well after these people, or they will certainly carry off something or other.” I had hardly got into the boat, before I was told they had stolen one of the iron stanchions from the opposite gang-way, and were making off with it. I ordered them to fire over the canoe till I could get round in the boat, but not to kill any one. But the natives made too much noise for me to be heard; and the unhappy thief was killed at the third shot. Two others in the same canoe leaped over-board; but got in again just as I came to them. The stanchion they had thrown over-board. One of them, a man grown, sat bailing the blood and water out of the canoe, in a kind of hysteric laugh. The other, a youth about fourteen or fifteen years of age, looked on the deceased with a serious and dejected countenance: we had afterwards reason to believe he was his son.

At this unhappy accident, all the natives retired with precipitation. I followed them into the bay, and prevailed upon the people in one canoe to come along-side the boat, and receive some nails, and other things, which I gave them: This, in some measure, allayed their fears. Having taken a view of the bay, and found that fresh water, which we most wanted, was to be had, I returned on board, and carried out a kedge anchor with three hawsers upon an end, to warp the ship in by, and hove short on the bower. One would have thought that the natives, by this time, would have been so sensible of the effect of our fire-arms, as not to have provoked us to fire upon them any more; but the event proved otherwise. For the boat had no sooner left the kedge anchor, than two men in a canoe put off from the shore, took hold of the buoy-rope, and attempted to drag it ashore, little considering what was fast to it. Left, after discovering



covering their mistake, they should take away the buoy, I ordered a musquet to be fired at them. The ball fell short, and they took not the least notice of it; but a second having passed over them, they let go the buoy, and made for the shore. This was the last shot we had occasion to fire at any of them, while we lay at this place. It probably had more effect than killing the man, by shewing them that they were not safe at any distance; at least we had reason to think so, for they afterwards stood in great dread of the musquet. Nevertheless, they would very often be exercising their talent of thieving upon us, which I thought proper to put up with, as our stay was not likely to be long amongst them. The trouble these people gave us retarded us so long, that, before we were ready to heave the anchor, the wind began to increase, and blew in squalls out of the bay; so that we were obliged to lie fast. It was not long before the natives ventured off to us again. In the first canoe which came, was a man who seemed to be of some consequence. He advanced slowly, with a pig on his shoulder, and speaking something which we did not understand. As soon as he got along-side, I made him a present of a hatchet, and several other articles. In return, he sent in his pig; and was, at last, prevailed upon to come himself up into the gang-way, where he made but a short stay, before he went away. The reception this man met with, induced the people in all the other canoes to put along-side; and exchanges were presently re-established.

Matters being thus settled on board, I went on shore with a party of men, to see what was to be done there. We were received by the natives with great courtesy; and, as if nothing had happened, trafficked with them for some fruit and a few small pigs; and, after loading the launch with water,

returned.

1774.
April.
Friday 8.



1774.
 April.
 Friday 8.

returned aboard. After dinner I sent the boats, under the protection of a guard, ashore for water. On their landing, the natives all fled but one man, and he seemed much frightened; afterwards one or two more came down; and these were all that were seen this afternoon. We could not conceive the reason of this sudden fright.

Saturday 9.

Early in the morning of the 9th, the boats were sent as usual for water; and, just as they were coming off, but not before, some of the natives made their appearance. After breakfast I landed some little time before the guard, when the natives crowded round me in great numbers; but as soon as the guard landed, I had enough to do to keep them from running off; at length their fears vanished, and a trade was opened for fruit and pigs. I believe the reason of the natives flying from our people the day before, was their not seeing me at the head of them; for they certainly would have done the same to-day had I not been present. About noon, a chief of some consequence, attended by a great number of people, came down to the landing-place. I presented him with such articles as I had with me; and, in return, he gave me some of his ornaments. After these mutual exchanges a good understanding seemed to be established between us; so that we got by exchanges as much fruit as loaded two boats, with which we returned on board to dinner; but could not prevail on the chief to accompany us.

In the afternoon the watering and trading parties were sent on shore; tho' the latter got but little, as most of the natives had retired into the country. A party of us went to the other, or southern, cove of the bay, where I procured five pigs, and came to the house, which, we were told, did be-
 long



long to the man we had killed. He must have been a person of some note, as there were six pigs in and about his house, which we were told belonged to his son, who fled on our approach. I wanted much to have seen him, to make him a present, and, by other kind treatment to convince him and the others, that it was not from any bad design against the nation, that we had killed his father. It would have been to little purpose, if I had left any thing in the house, as it certainly would have been taken by others; especially as I could not sufficiently explain to them my meaning. Strict honesty was seldom observed when the property of our things came to be disputed. I saw a striking instance of this in the morning, when I was going ashore. A man in a canoe offered me a small pig for a six inch spike, and another man being employed to convey it, I gave him the spike, which he kept for himself, and instead of it, gave to the man who owned the pig a sixpenny nail. Words of course arose, and I waited to see how it would end; but as the man who had possession of the spike seemed resolved to keep it, I left them before it was decided. In the evening we returned on board with what refreshments we had collected, and thought we had made a good day's work.

1774.
April.
Saturday 9.

On the 10th, early in the morning, some people from more distant parts came in canoes along-side, and sold us some pigs; so that we had now sufficient to give the crew a fresh meal. They were, in general, so small that forty or fifty were hardly sufficient for this purpose. The trade on shore for fruit was as brisk as ever. After dinner, I made a little expedition in my boat along the coast to the southward, accompanied by some of the gentlemen: at the different places we touched at, we collected eighteen pigs; and,

Sunday 10.

I believe,



1774.
 April.
 Sunday 10.

I believe, might have gotten more. The people were exceedingly obliging wherever we landed, and readily brought down whatever we desired.

Monday 11.

Next morning, I went down to the same place where we had been the preceding evening; but, instead of getting pigs, as I expected, found the scene quite changed. The nails, and other things, they were mad after but the evening before, they now despised; and instead of them wanted they did not know what; so that I was obliged to return with three or four little pigs, which cost more than a dozen did the day before. When I got on board, I found the same change had happened there, as also at the trading place on shore. The reason was, several of the young gentlemen having landed the preceding day, had given away in exchange various articles which the people had not seen before, and which took with them more than nails or more useful iron tools. But what ruined our market the most, was one of them giving for a pig a very large quantity of red feathers he had got at Amsterdam. None of us knew, at this time, that this article was in such estimation here; and, if I had known it, I could not have supported the trade, in the manner it was begun, one day. Thus was our fine prospect of getting a plentiful supply of refreshments from these people frustrated; which will ever be the case so long as every one is allowed to make exchanges for what he pleases, and in what manner he pleases. When I found this island was not likely to supply us, on any conditions, with sufficient refreshments, such as we might expect to find at the Society Isles, nor very convenient for taking in wood and water, nor for giving the ship the necessary repairs she wanted, I resolved forthwith to leave it, and proceed to some other place

‡

where



LANDES-
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SKETCH
of the
MARQUESAS DE MENDOÇA.

HOODS ISLAND

Scale of Leagues.

LA. DOMINICA



RESOLUTION BAY OR PORT MADRE DE DIOS.



Lat. ... 9° 55' 30" S.
Longit. ... 139° 08' 40" W.

LA. MAGDALENA

J. Russell fecit

N^o V.

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