A JOURNAL

KEPT BY

Captain John Narborough, &c.

MAT 15. 1669. This day being Saturday, I received from the Honourable Mr. Wren, Secretary to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, my Commission to Command his Majesty's Ship the Sweepstakes, the Ship being at Deptford, in the River of Thames near London.

Sunday September 26. 1669. Set out at his Majesty's proper Cost, one of his own Ships named the Sweepstakes, Burthen 300 Tuns, with 36 great Ordnance, and all other Munition proportionable; manned with 80 Men and Boys, victualled for fourteen Months, at whole allowance of all Provisions both good and wholesome, having Oat-meal for Fith, and four Tuns and an half of Brandy in lieu of Beer, stores of all sorts compleat for twelve months, with provision of Craft to take Fish and Fowls, a fynge Net, and hooks, and lines, and fil-gigs, and harping Irons, twelve Fowling-pieces, with
2 Sir John Narborough’s Voyage

with shot, and pigs of Lead to make Shot, if occasion, &c. And the Batchelor Pink, burthen 70 Tuns, with four great Ordnance, and all other Munition proportionable; mann’d with nineteen Men, one Boy, victualled for twelve months, at whole allowance of all Provision good and wholesome, as the Sweepstakes had, and stores proportionable for the time, and Craft to take Fish and Fowl, &c.

Having a sort of Goods to the value of three hundred pounds, as followeth, Knives, Sissors, Gaffes, Beads, Hatchets, Bills, Hoes, Nails, Needles, Pins, Pipes, Bells, Boxes, &c. Daffels Linnen, Cloth, Ofenbriggs, Tobacco, and Pipes, &c. to trade with the Natives, at his Majesty’s Charge.

Wednesday September 29. Hazy weather, the Wind to the North-west and by West, a fresh gale: I stood to the South-west-ward as near as I could; this day at twelve a Clock, the Lizard bore North of me a little Easterly, distance about 12 Leagues, according to my account; Latitude by account, is 49° 35’. This day I spoke with a French Banker: Lizard in England lies in the Lat. of 50° 10’. and in Longitude East, from the Meridian of the West part of St. Michael, one of the Islands of the Azores 18° 30’. From the Lizard I take my departure, and keep my daily account of the difference of my Longitude from that Meridian.

October the 17. I made the Maders; which Island is high Land, and irregular in Hills, with Wood on the top and down the sides; Planted with Vines: there is some Sugar made in the Island; the Inhabitants Portuguese. The City of Fonchial...
is the Metropolis, and is situated in a Bay on the South part of the Island, close to the Sea side, walled next the Sea, and well fortified with Ordnance; fresh water comes running into the Sea in the middle of the Bay, in a fair Rivulet from under an Arch in the Wall; the shoar-sides are great pebble stones in the Bay, and Rocks in the other places; the Road is foul ground, to the East part of it; the Ships ride in shot of Ordnance of the City: this City is about an English mile in length, and three quarters of a mile in breadth.

The Desarts are barren rocky Isles of a good heighth, and lie at the South-east point of Madera, above a mile distant from the shore; there is water enough between Madera and the Desarts in the midway, and no danger; the Desarts trenct to the South-east. Fonchiale Bay in the Isle of Madera lies in the Latitude of 32° 10' N. North, and in Longitude West from the Lizard of England 10° 1 m. and Meridian distance 143 Leagues.

Sunday being the 17th. fair Weather and little wind at North-west, Course by my Compass South-west. I make my true Course from Fonchiale Bay, till to day at noon South-south-west, distance, sailed 34 miles six tenths departure West 13 miles; Diff. Lat. 00 d. 32 m. Lat. by account 31 d. 38 m. Meridian distance from the Lizard West, 147 leagues, 1 mile; Longitude from the Lizard West 10 d. 17 m. Difference of Longitude from Fonchiale West 00 d. 16 m. To day at noon I saw the Island of Madera, bearing N. B. E.: the body of the Isle distant by estimation 11 leagues; it makes in a bluff body at the West end, and treats to the
4  Sir John Narborough's Voyage

East: Course by the Compass this afternoon SW, little wind to night; I shaped my nearest Course for the Island of St. Jago with all the sail I could make, the Batchelor Pink in Company; I gave order to my Master to make the belt of his way to St. Jago Island, but not to leave the Company of the Batchelor.

Saturday October 23. The wind at N.b.E. a gale: this day in the forenoon I crossed the Tropic of Cancer, all my men in good health, I praise the Almighty God for it: many of my men that had been with me in the Indies formerly, were let blood; for I take bleeding in these hot Climates to be a great preserver of health, diverting Calentures; I experience'd it in two Voyages before to the Island of St. Helena, and in one to the Coast of Guinea, where several of my men under that distemper, were prefered by bleeding; in all these Voyages I was never sick one day, nor in two years time in the Mediterranean Sea, nor at the Canaries; for when I came near the Equinoctial I always breathed a Vein.

Thursday October 28. the Wind at East-NorthEast a stiff gale: this Morning I saw the Isle of Mayo bearing S. b. W. distant by estimation eight Leagues; it makes a high Hill, and Craggy to the East part, and low land towards the shore-side, to the North-west part of the Island; it lies from Bonavista S. b. W. distant near 18 leagues. This day at 11 a Clock I anchored in the Road in seven fathom water, sandy Ground, about a mile from the shore; the Northernmost point of the Road bearing N.N.W. half a point to the West, and the Southern
to the Straights of Magellan.

thern point of the Road, bearing South-east from me; distant about a mile and an half: there are craggy Rocks to the South of the Road on the shore side, but to the North a low sandy shore; the Road is on the North-west and by West part of the Island in a small sandy Bay; there's the Salt-pond a bow's shot from the Sea in the low flat Land; fresh water is very scarce here: I went ashore presently after I had anchored, and found a heap of Salt of about 20 Tuns; I got aboard again immediately, and sent the Long-boat ashore, which brought off 2 Tuns and 1, the Sulf came in so much that no more could be got off; we halled the Seyne here, and caught abundance of good Mullets, with some Cavallo and silver Fish; one of the Islanders a Negro came aboard, whom I sent ashore, to tell the People that if they brought down some Cattle I would buy some of them; I rode here all Night; fair Weather, the Wind Easterly. This side of the Island is dry land without wood; here are many Goats, and Guinea Hens.

Friday October 29. fair Weather, the wind at NE. a fine gale: this Morning I sent my Boat ashore, and bought of the Islanders some Goats at 4 a piece of Eight per Head, and 8 Cows excellent good meat at 6 pieces of Eight a Cow, giving the skins again; my men caught a great many Fish with the Seyne, which this day we split, and laid in pickle four Hours, then dried them to keep, which they will a long time in any Climate, as I have experienced in other Voyages, and are very good Victuals at Sea: I made what dispatch I could
Sir John Narborough's *Voyage*

could to be gone for St. Jago Island. This day in the forenoon, a Ship passed by to the Westward on the South side of the Isle, and in the afternoon we saw several Ships coming from the Northward, which were the Portuguese Fleet bound for Brazil; they halled into Port Praya in the Isle of St. Jago to water: this night I weighed, and flood away at twelve a Clock South-south-west for Port Praya, with the Pink in Company; I touched at the Isle of May for Salt, which I knew would be a great help to get Provisions in the Voyage.

Saturday October 30. fair wind at North-east and by North a fresh gale. This Morning steered South-west for the South side of St. Jago, where is the Road of Port Praya, lying near South-west from the Road of the Isle of May, and distant nine Leagues. This day at 12 a Clock I cast my best Bower-anchor in Port Praya Road, in 10 fathom ground, the East Point bore East of me, and the West Point about West-south-west, about half a mile off: I could not go into the best of the Road, the Portuguese Fleet of about thirty six Sail riding in it; the Great Padre Eternel Admiral, bound for Brazil, is a very great Ship and well built, they say she is in Burthen 1700 Tuns, she hath Ports for three Tier of Guns flush, but now she had but eighty, and poorly manned with Seamen, and so were all the rest, six Frigates might have taken most of the Fleet. At my coming in to Anchor, the Admiral saluted me with seven Guns, I thanked him with as many; Captain *Francis Wilksheir* in the Jerusalem fired five, I returned him
him three; so did the Reer-Admiral, and I re-
turn'd the Complement in the like number, sever-
of the Fleet fired three, whom I answer'd in con-
clusion with three for all. I rode on the broad 
side of the Admiral, and saluted the Fort with five 
Guns, which return'd three, then I sent my Lieu-
tenant ashore to ask leave of the Governour to wa-
ter, which he granted forthwith; my Coopers, got 
the Cask ready, and this Evening put one boat's 
lading aboard.

Sunday October 31. fair Weather, the wind at 
North-east a fine gale. This Morning Don Carolus 
went ashore to Pryam; with much ado I got off a 
boats lading of Water, for the Portuguese boats 
were filling too, and a great many Soldiers at the 
watering place snatch'd some of our mens Hats 
off, and run away, wherefore I would not let my 
men go any more this day for fear of quarreling. 
This Bay of Port Praya, as they call it, is no Port, 
but a fine round Bay, having high steep Cliffs on 
the East side, and in the bottom a steep Hill, where 
the Castle is, that hath but four Guns, and is of 
no force; there is a small Fort on the top of a Hill 
on the East side, which hath three Guns. On the 
North-west part of the Bay the shore is gravelly 
and sandy, and there's a Grove of Coco-nut trees: 
A fresh water Rivulet runs down into the Valley, 
and thence through the Sand foaks into the Sea: 
this Water is in great quantity, very good, and 
keeps well at Sea: to the west part of this Bay lies 
a small Island close on the shore, which has Grazs 
on it that may be cut off for Cattle, which I did; 
this Road is no safeguard for Shipping, for a Man 
B 4 of
Sir John Narborough’s Voyage

of War may take any Ship out of the Bay, without receiving any damage from the Forts aforesaid, and with Fire-Ships a whole Fleet may be spoiled at pleasure; for it’s a fresh gale every day, and there’s but two points of Land by which a man may fetch into any part of the Bay; also the Bay lies open to the Sea from the East, Southerly to the W.S.W. I called for my Lieutenants and Master, and acquainted them, that I had Orders to sail from thence to the Coast of America to the Southward of the River of Plate, to the streights of Magellan, through which we were to pass into the South Seas, and that we must shape our Course to make the shortest way of it, and be careful to keep Easterly enough of it, to weather the shoals of Brazil, called the Abrobolls, lying in and about eighteen degrees of Southerly Latitude, for the Wind blows for the most part thereabouts between the Latitude of ten South, and the Latitude of twenty South, at East by South and East South-east fresh gales; whilst this passed, in came the Master, and told me all things were flowed, and the Wind at E.b.N. fresh; I concluded with him that our best Course at present would be South and by East, and as we got Southerly and the Wind grew large, we might alter our Course when we would: we steered a Point or two from the Wind, that the Ship might have fresh way through the Sea. I ordered my Master to steer South and by East by the Compass, and my Lieutenant to call all hands to Prayer, read Service, and beg’d of God Almighty a prosperous Voyage, continuance in Health, and love to one another, and that we might prosper in this Undertaking, &c. In-
to the Streights of Magellan.

Instructions for Mr. Humphrey Fleming, Commander of his Majesty's hired Pink the Batchelor; By virtue of an Order from His Royal Highness, dated the twenty ninth day of August 1669, to me directed.

You are hereby required to fail with his Majesties hired Pink the Batchelor, which you are Commander of, and to keep Company with his Majesties Ship the Sweepstakes to the Coast of America to the Southward of Rio de la Plata, and along the Coast of America to the Southward, till you come to the Streights of Magellan, lying in about 53 Degrees of South Latitude; through which you are to pass into the South Sea, and sail along the West Coast of America Northerly, till you come as high as Baldavia, which lies in about 40 Degrees of South-lat. there you shall receive further Orders from me, or in my absence, from the Commander in Chief on board his Majesties Ship the Sweepstakes, in case you keep Company with her, whereupon Company you are not to depart from, or leave, upon any occasion whatsoever, as you will answer the contrary at your peril, unless you have Order from me so to do, or in my absence from the Commander in Chief on board her; You are also to understand, that you are to be employed by me as I shall see occasion to employ you, to discover Lands, Bays, Havens, Rivers or Streights, &c.

The
10 Sir John Narborough’s Voyage

The Design of this Voyage on which you are employed, being to make a Discovery both of the Seas and Coasts of that part of the World, and if possible to lay the foundation of a Trade there. You are not to meddle with the Coast of America, nor send on shore, unless in case of great necessity, till you get to the Southward of Rio de la Plata; and you are not to do any injury to such Spaniards as you shall meet with, nor meddle with any place where they are planted: You are to take Observations with as much Accuracy as you can, and also to cause your Mate and Company to do the like, to observe all Headlands, Islands, Bays, Havens, Roads, Mouths of Rivers, Rocks, Shoals, Soundings, Course of Tides, flowings and settings of Currents, where you come, both in the North and South Seas, &c. and cause Draughts and Designs to be made of them; and also you are to take notice of all Trade-Winds, &c. you meet with, and of the Weather, and especially to observe Harbours in the Streights of Magellan; You are in all places where you land to observe the nature of the Soil, and what Fruits, Woods, Grain, Fowls, and Beasts it produces, and what Stones and Minerals, and what Fish the Rivers and the Sea doth abound with; You are to do your utmost to procure of the Minerals to carry to England, and to deliver them to His Royal Highness’s Secretary. You are also to mark the temper and inclinations of the Indian Inhabitants, and where you can gain any Correspondence with them, you are to make them sensible of the great Power