A

VOYAGE

TOWARDS

THE SOUTH POLE,

AND

ROUND THE WORLD,

IN 1772, 1773, 1774, AND 1775.

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BOOK III.

FROM ULIETEA TO NEW ZEALAND.

CHAP. I.

PASSAGE FROM ULIETEA TO THE FRIENDLY ISLES; WITH A
DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL ISLANDS THAT WERE DISCOVERED,
AND THE INCIDENTS WHICH HAPPENED IN THAT TRACK.

On the 6th, being the day after leaving Ulietea, at
eleven o'clock A. M. we saw land bearing N. W.,
which, upon a nearer approach, we found to be a low
reef island about four leagues in compass, and of a
circular form. It is composed of several small patches
connected together by breakers, the largest lying on
the N. E. part. This is Howe island, discovered by
Captain Wallis, who, I think, sent his boat to examine
it; and, if I have not been misinformed, found a
channel through, within the reef, near the N. W. part.
The inhabitants of Ulietea speak of an uninhabited
island, about this situation, called by them Mopeha,
to which they go at certain seasons for turtle. Per-
haps this may be the same; as we saw no signs of

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inhabitants upon it. Its latitude is 16° 46' South; longitude 154° 8' West.

From this day to the 16th, we met with nothing remarkable, and our course was West southerly; the winds variable from the North round by the East to S. W. attended with cloudy, rainy, unsettled weather, and a southerly swell. We generally brought to, or stood upon a wind, during night; and in the day made all the sail we could. About half an hour after sun-rise this morning, land was seen from the topmast head, bearing N. N. E. We immediately altered the course and steering for it, found it to be another reef island, composed of five or six woody islets, connected together by sand banks and breakers, enclosing a lake, into which we could see no entrance. We ranged the West and N. W. coasts, from its southern to its northern extremity, which is about two leagues; and so near the shore, that at one time we could see the rocks under us; yet we found no anchorage, nor saw we any signs of inhabitants. There were plenty of various kinds of birds, and the coast seemed to abound with fish. The situation of this isle is not very distant from that assigned by Mr. Dalrymple for La Sagitaria, discovered by Quiros; but, by the description the discoverer has given of it, it cannot be the same. For this reason, I looked upon it as a new discovery, and named it Palmerston Island, in honour of Lord Palmerston, one of the Lords of the Admiralty. It is situated in latitude 18° 4' South, longitude 163° 10' West.

At four o'clock in the afternoon we left this isle, and resumed our course to the W. by S. with a fine steady gale easterly, till noon on the 20th, at which time, being in latitude 18° 50', longitude 168° 52', we thought we saw land to S. S. W. and hauled up for it accordingly. But two hours after, we discovered our mistake, and resumed our course W. by S. Soon after we saw land from the mast-head in the same direction; and, as we drew nearer, found it to
be an island which, at five o'clock, bore West, distant five leagues. Here we spent the night plying under the top-sails; and, at day-break next morning, bore away, steering for the northern point, and ranging the West coast at the distance of one mile, till near noon. Then, perceiving some people on the shore, and landing seeming to be easy, we brought to, and hoisted out two boats, with which I put off to the land, accompanied by some of the officers and gentlemen. As we drew near the shore, some of the inhabitants, who were on the rocks, retired to the woods, to meet us, as we supposed; and we afterwards found our conjectures right. We landed with ease in a small creek, and took post on a high rock to prevent a surprise. Here we displayed our colours, and Mr. Forster and his party began to collect plants, &c. The coast was so over-run with woods, bushes, plants, stones, &c. that we could not see forty yards round us. I took two men, and with them entered a kind of chasm, which opened a way into the woods. We had not gone far before we heard the natives approaching; upon which I called to Mr. Forster to retire to the party, as I did likewise. We had no sooner joined, than the islanders appeared at the entrance of a chasm not a stone's-throw from us. We began to speak, and make all the friendly signs we could think of to them, which they answered by menaces; and one of two men, who were advanced before the rest, threw a stone, which struck Mr. Sparrman on the arm. Upon this two musquets were fired, without order, which made them all retire under cover of the woods; and we saw them no more.

After waiting some little time, and till we were satisfied nothing was to be done here, the country being so over-run with bushes, that it was hardly possible to come to parly with them, we embarked and proceeded down along shore, in hopes of meeting with better success in another place. After ranging the coast for some miles without seeing a living soul,
or any convenient landing-place, we at length came before a small beach, on which lay four canoes. Here we landed by means of a little creek, formed by the flat rocks before it, with a view of just looking at the canoes, and to leave some medals, nails, &c. in them; for not a soul was to be seen. The situation of this place was to us worse than the former. A flat rock lay next the sea; behind it a narrow stone beech; this was bounded by a perpendicular rocky cliff of unequal height, whose top was covered with shrubs; two deep and narrow chasms in the cliff seemed to open a communication into the country. In, or before one of these, lay the four canoes which we were going to look at; but in the doing of this, I saw we should be exposed to an attack from the natives, if there were any, without being in a situation proper for defence. To prevent this, as much as could be, and to secure a retreat in case of an attack, I ordered the men to be drawn up upon the rock, from whence they had a view of the heights; and only myself, and four of the gentlemen, went up to the canoes. We had been there but a few minutes, before the natives, I cannot say how many, rushed down the chasm out of the wood upon us. The endeavours we used to bring them to a parly, were to no purpose; for they came with the ferocity of wild boars, and threw their darts. Two or three musquets, discharged in the air, did not hinder one of them from advancing still farther, and throwing another dart, or rather a spear, which passed close over my shoulder. His courage would have cost him his life, had not my musquet missed fire; for I was not five paces from him, when he threw his spear, and had resolved to shoot him to save myself. I was glad afterwards that it happened as it did. At this instant, our men on the rock began to fire at others who appeared on the heights, which abated the ardour of the party we were engaged with, and gave us time to join our people, when I caused the firing to cease.
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The last discharge sent all the islanders to the woods, from whence they did not return so long as we re-
mained. We did not know that any were hurt. It was remarkable, that when I joined our party, I tried
my musquet in the air, and it went off as well as a piece could do. Seeing no good was to be got with
these people, or at the isle, as having no port, we re-
turned on board, and having hoisted in the boats,
made sail to W. S. W. I had forgot to mention, in
its proper order, that having put ashore a little before
we came to this last place, three or four of us went
upon the cliffs, where we found the country, as before,
nothing but coral rocks, all over-run with bushes; so
that it was hardly possible to penetrate into it, and
we embarked again with intent to return directly on
board, till we saw the canoes; being directed to the
place by the opinion of some of us, who thought they
heard some people.

The conduct and aspect of these islanders oc-
casioned my naming it Savage Island. It is situated
in the latitude 19° 1’ South, longitude 169° 37’ West.
It is about eleven leagues in circuit; of a round form,
and good height; and hath deep waters close to its
shores. All the sea-coast, and as far inland as we
could see, is wholly covered with trees, shrubs, &c.
amongst which were some cocoa-nut trees; but what
the interior parts may produce, we know not. To
judge of the whole garment by the skirts, it cannot
produce much; for so much as we saw of it con-
sisted wholly of coral rocks, all over-run with wood
and bushes. Not a bit of soil was to be seen; the
rocks alone supplying the trees with humidity. If
these coral rocks were first formed in the sea by
animals, how came they thrown up to such a height?
Has this island been raised by an earthquake? Or has
the sea receded from it? Some philosophers have at-
ttempted to account for the formation of low isles,
such as are in this sea; but I do not know that any
thing has been said of high islands, or such as I have

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been speaking of. In this island, not only the loose rocks which cover the surface, but the cliffs which bound the shores, are of coral stone, which the continual beating of the sea has formed into a variety of curious caverns, some of them very large: the roof or rock over them being supported by pillars, which the foaming waves have formed into a multitude of shapes, and made more curious than the caverns themselves. In one, we saw light was admitted through a hole at the top; in another place, we observed that the whole roof of one of these caverns had sunk in, and formed a kind of valley above, which lay considerably below the circumjacent rocks.

I can say but little of the inhabitants, who I believe, are not numerous. They seemed to be stout, well-made men, were naked, except round the waists, and some of them had their faces, breast, and thighs painted black. The canoes were precisely like those of Amsterdam; with the addition of a little rising like a gunwale on each side of the open part; and had some carving about them, which shewed that these people are full as ingenious. Both these islanders and their canoes, agree very well with the descriptions M. de Bougainville has given of those he saw off the Isle of Navigators, which lies nearly under the same meridian.

After leaving Savage Island, we continued to steer W. S. W. with a fine easterly trade-wind, till the 24th in the evening, when, judging ourselves not far from Rotterdam, we brought to, and spent the night plying under the top-sails. At day-break, next morning, we bore away West; and, soon after, saw a string of islands extending from S. S. W. by the West to N. N. W. The wind being at N. E. we hauled to N. W. with a view of discovering more distinctly the isles in that quarter; but, presently after, we discovered a reef of rocks a-head, extending on each bow farther than we could see. As we could not weather them, it became necessary to tack and bear up to
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the South, to look for a passage that way. At noon, the southernmost island bore S. W.; distant four miles. North of this isle were three others, all connected by breakers, which we were not sure did not join to those we had seen in the morning, as some were observed in the intermediate space. Some islands were also seen to the West of those four; but Rotterdam was not yet in sight. Latitude 20° 23' S. longitude 174° 6' W. During the whole afternoon, we had little wind: so that, at sunset, the southernmost isle bore W. N. W., distant five miles; and some breakers, we had seen to the South, bore now S. S. W. half W. Soon after it fell calm, and we were left to the mercy of a great easterly swell; which, however, happened to have no great effect upon the ship. The calm continued till four o'clock the next morning, when it was succeeded by a breeze from the South. At day-light, perceiving a likelihood of a passage between the islands to the North, and the breakers to the South, we stretched in West, and soon after saw more islands, both to the S. W. and N. W. but the passage seemed open and clear. Upon drawing near the islands, we sounded, and found forty-five and forty fathoms, a clear sandy bottom. I was now quite easy, since it was in our power to anchor, in case of a calm; or to spend the night, if we found no passage. Towards noon, some canoes came off to us from one of the isles, having two or three people in each; who advanced boldly along-side, and exchanged some cocoa-nuts, and shaddocks for small nails. They pointed out to us Anamocka or Rotterdam; an advantage we derived from knowing the proper names. They likewise gave us the names of some of the other isles, and invited us much to go to theirs, which they called Cornango. The breeze freshening, we left them astern, and steered for Anamocka; meeting with a clear passage, in which we found unequal sounding, from forty to nine fathoms,
depending, I believe, in a great measure, on our distance from the islands which form it.

As we drew near the south end of Rotterdam, or Anamocka, we were met by a number of canoes, laden with fruit and roots; but, as I did not shorten sail, we had but little traffic with them. The people in one canoe enquired for me by name; a proof that these people have an intercourse with those of Amsterdam. They importuned us much to go towards their coast, letting us know, as we understood them, that we might anchor there. This was on the S. W. side of the island, where the coast seemed to be sheltered from the South and S. E. winds; but as the day was far spent, I could not attempt to go in there, as it would have been necessary to have sent first a boat in to examine it. I therefore stood for the north side of the island, where we anchored about three-fourths of a mile from shore; the extremes of it bearing S. 88° East to S. W. a cove with a sandy beach at the bottom of it S. 50° East.
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CHAP. II.

RECEPTION AT ANAMOCKA; A ROBBERY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES, WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER INCIDENTS. DEPARTURE FROM THE ISLAND. A SAILING CANOE DESCRIBED. SOME OBSER-
VATIONS ON THE NAVIGATION OF THESE ISLANDERS. A DE-
SCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND, AND OF THOSE IN THE NEIGH-
BOURHOOD, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE INHABITANTS, AND NAUTICAL REMARKS.

Before we had well got to an anchor, the natives came off from all parts in canoes, bringing with them yams and shaddocks, which they exchanged for small nails and old rags. One man taking a vast liking to our lead and line, got hold of it, and, in spite of all the threats I could make use of, cut the line with a stone; but a discharge of small shot made him return it. Early in the morning, I went ashore, with Mr. Gilbert, to look for fresh water. We landed in the cove above-mentioned, and were received with great courtesy by the natives. After I had distributed some presents amongst them, I asked for water, and was conducted to a pond of it that was brackish, about three-fourths of a mile from the landing-place; which I suppose to be the same that Tasman watered at. In the mean time, the people in the boat had laden her with fruit and roots, which the natives had brought down, and exchanged for nails and beads. On our return to the ship, I found the same sort of traffic carrying on there. After breakfast, I went ashore with two boats to trade with the people, accompanied by several of the gentlemen, and ordered the launch to follow with casks to be filled with water. The na-
tives assisted us to roll them to and from the pond; and a nail or a bead was the expence of their labour. Fruit and roots, especially shaddocks and yams, were brought down in such plenty, that the two boats were
laden, sent off, cleared, and laden a second time, before noon; by which time also the launch had got a full supply of water, and the botanical and shooting parties had all come in, except the surgeon, for whom we could not wait, as the tide was ebbing fast out of the cove; consequently he was left behind. As there is no getting into the cove with a boat, from between half ebb to half flood, we could get off no water in the afternoon. However, there is a very good landing-place without it, near the southern point, where boats can get ashore at all times of the tide; here some of the officers landed after dinner, where they found the surgeon, who had been robbed of his gun. Having come down to the shore some time after the boats had put off, he got a canoe to bring him on board; but as he was getting into her, a fellow snatched hold of the gun, and ran off with it. After that no one would carry him to the ship, and they would have stripped him, as he imagined, had he not presented a tooth-pick case, which they, no doubt, thought was a little gun. As soon as I heard of this, I landed at the place above-mentioned, and the few natives who were there fled at my approach. After landing, I went in search of the officers, whom I found in the cove, where we had been in the morning, with a good many of the natives about them. No step had been taken to recover the gun, nor did I think proper to take any; but in this I was wrong. The easy manner of obtaining this gun, which they now, no doubt, thought secure in their possession, encouraged them to proceed in these tricks, as will soon appear. The alarm the natives had caught being soon over, they carried fruit, &c. to the boats, which got pretty well laden before night, when we all returned on board.

Early in the morning of the 28th, Lieutenant Clerke, with the Master and fourteen or fifteen men, went on shore in the launch for water. I did intend