

A
 VOYAGE
 TO
 TERRA AUSTRALIS.

BOOK II.

TRANSACTIONS DURING THE CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF TERRA AUSTRALIS,
 FROM THE TIME OF LEAVING PORT JACKSON TO THE RETURN
 TO THAT PORT.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from Port Jackson, with the Lady Nelson. Examination of various parts of the East Coast, from thence to Sandy Cape. Break-sea Spit. Anchorage in Hervey's Bay, where the Lady Nelson joins after a separation. Some account of the inhabitants. Variations of the compass. Run to Bustard Bay. Port Curtis discovered, and examined. Some account of the surrounding country. Arrival in Keppel Bay, and examination of its branches, one of which leads into Port Curtis. Some account of the natives, and of the country round Keppel Bay. Astronomical and nautical observations.

LIEUTENANT John Murray, commander of the brig Lady Nelson, having received orders to put himself under my command, I gave him a small code of signals, and directed him, in case of separation, to repair to Hervey's Bay; which he was to enter by a passage said

1802.
 July.
 Thurs 22.

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1802. to have been found by the south-sea whalers, between Sandy Cape
 July. and Break-sea Spit. In the morning of July 22, we sailed out of
 Thurs. 22. Port Jackson together; and the breeze being fair and fresh, ran
 (Atlas, rapidly to the northward, keeping at a little distance from the coast.
 Plate VIII.)

At eleven o'clock, the south head of Broken Bay bore W. by
 N. three leagues; and Mr. Westall then made a sketch of the
 Pl. XVIII, entrance, with that of the Hawkesbury River, which falls into it.
 View 2.) The colonists have called this place Broken Bay, but it is not what
 was so named by captain Cook; for he says it lies in latitude $33^{\circ} 42'$
 (Hawkesworth III. 103), whereas the southernmost point of entrance
 is not further than $33^{\circ} 34'$ south. There is, in captain Cook's latitude,
 a very small opening, and the hills behind it answer to his description
 of "some broken land that seemed to form a bay," when seen at
 four leagues, the distance he was off; but in reality, there is nothing
 more than a shallow lagoon in that place. In consequence of this
 difference in position, Cape Three-points has been sought three or
 four leagues to the north of Broken Bay; whereas it is the north
 head of the entrance into the bay itself which was so named, and it
 corresponds both in situation and appearance.

At noon, the south-eastern bluff of Cape Three-points bore S.
 64° W., seven or eight miles, and was found to lie in $33^{\circ} 32\frac{1}{2}'$ south
 and $151^{\circ} 23\frac{1}{2}'$ east. In steering northward along the coast, at from
 six to two miles distance, we passed two rocky islets lying under
 the high shore; and at sunset, Coal Island, in the entrance of Port
 Hunter, bore N. 9° W., five or six miles. This port was discovered
 in 1797 by the late captain John Shortland, and lies in $32^{\circ} 56'$ south,
 longitude $151^{\circ} 43'$ east.

We passed Port Stephens a little before midnight; and the
 breeze being fresh at W. by S., the Lady Nelson was left astern;
 Friday 23. and we lay to for an hour next morning, to wait her coming up.
 The land was then scarcely visible, but a north course brought us in
 (Atlas, with the Three Brothers; and at four in the afternoon, they bore
 Plate IX.) from S. 56° to 65° W., the nearest land being a low, but steep point,

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distant four or five miles in the first direction. The Three Brothers lie from one to five miles behind the shore, at the eastern extremity of a range of high land, coming out of the interior country. The northernmost hill is the broadest, most elevated, and nearest to the water side; and being visible fifty miles from a ship's deck, is an excellent landmark for vessels passing along the coast: its latitude is 31° 43' south, and longitude 152° 45' east.

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Friday 23.

To the northward of the Three Brothers there is four leagues of low, and mostly sandy shore; and after passing it, we came up with a projection, whose top is composed of small, irregular-shaped hummocks, the northernmost of them being a rocky lump of a sugar-loaf form; further on, the land falls back into a shallow bight, with rocks in it standing above water. When abreast of the projection, which was called *Tacking Point*, the night was closing in, and we stood off shore, intending to make the same part next morning; for some of this coast had been passed in the dark by captain Cook, and might therefore contain openings.

At daybreak of the 24th, *Tacking Point* was distant three miles, Saturday 24. and the breeze fresh at S. W. by W. with fine weather. Our little consort being out of sight, we stood an hour to the southward; and not seeing her in that direction, bore away along the coast until noon, when our situation was as under:

Latitude observed	-	-	-	-	30° 58 ¹ / ₄ '
Longitude by time-keepers	-			-	153 6 ¹ / ₂
Northern Brother, dist. 48 miles, bore	-	S. 23	W.		
Smoky Cape, distant 3 or 4 miles,	N. 41°	to 30	W.		
Northern extremé of the land,	-	N. 5	W.		

The coast from *Tacking Point* to *Smoky Cape* is generally low and sandy; but its uniformity is broken at intervals by rocky points, which first appear like islands. Behind them the land is low, but quickly rises to hills of a moderate height; and these being well covered with wood, the country had a pleasant appearance. *Smoky Cape* was found to answer the description given of it by captain

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[*East Coast.*]

1802. Cook ; its centre lies in $30^{\circ} 55'$ south, and $153^{\circ} 4'$ east. The three
 July. hummocks upon it stand on so many projecting parts ; and at half a
 Saturday 24. mile from the southernmost lie two rocks, and a third two miles
 further south, which were not before noticed. On the north side of
 Smoky Cape, the coast falls back four or five miles to the westward,
 forming a bight in the low land, where there may probably be a
 shallow inlet ; it afterwards resumed a northern direction, and con-
 sisted as before of sandy beaches and stony points.

Our consort was not yet in sight ; but we kept on until five
 in the evening, when the nearest land was two miles off, and the
 northern hummock on Smoky Cape bore S. 4° W. nine leagues. I
 had before seen the coast further northward, as far as $29^{\circ} 20'$; and
 having therefore no inducement to lose a night's run for its exami-
 nation, we steered onward, passing without side of the Solitary Isles.

Sunday 25. At three in the morning, hove to until day-light ; and at eight o'clock
 made the south head of a bay discovered in the Norfolk (Introd.
 p. cxciv), and named *Shoal Bay*. One of the marks for finding
 this small place is a peaked hummock on the low land, thirteen
 miles distant ; and it was now set over the south head of the bay at
 S. 20° W. In steering northward close along the coast, we passed
 two small reefs, and the water shoaled to 10 fathoms ; they lie two
 miles off the land, and there did not seem to be any safe pas-
 sage within them. Our latitude at noon was $29^{\circ} 4'$, and longitude
 by time keepers $153^{\circ} 31'$; the shore was three miles off, but until we
 came up with Cape Byron at five in the evening, there was no pro-
 jection worthy of being particularly noticed. From Shoal Bay to
 Cape Byron is fifty miles, where the coast, with the exception of two
 or three rocky heads, is mostly low and sandy ; and the soundings,
 at from two to four miles off, vary between 10 and 32 fathoms, on a
 sandy bottom. A few miles back the land rises to hills of moderate
 elevation, which were poorly covered with wood in the southern
 part, but towards the cape had a more fertile appearance.

Cape Byron is a small steep head, projecting about two miles

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from the low land, and in coming along the coast makes like an island ; its latitude is $28^{\circ} 38'$, and longitude $153^{\circ} 37'$, or $7'$ east of the situation assigned to it by captain Cook. There are three rocks on its north side ; and in the direction of N. 57° W., eight or nine leagues from it, is the peaked top of a mass of mountains, named by its discoverer *Mount Warning* ; whose elevation is about 3300 feet, and exceeds that of Mount Dromedary, or any other land I have seen upon this East Coast. To Mr. Westall's sketch of this remarkable peak it may be added, that the surrounding hills were well covered with wood, whose foliage announced a soil more fertile than usual so near the sea side.

1802.
July.
Sunday 25.

(Atlas,
Pl. XVIII.
View S.)

The sun was near setting at the time Cape Byron bore west, three or four miles ; and the coast from thence to Point Look-out having been seen by captain Cook, we steered off in order to avoid falling in with the reefs of Point Danger in the night. At eleven, hauled more in for the land ; and at eight next day, Mount Warning was set at S. 25° W., twenty leagues. On coming in with Point Look-out, I took observations for the latitude and longitude, which fixed it in $27^{\circ} 27'$ south, and $153^{\circ} 31'$ east. The latitude is the same as it had been made in the Norfolk, (Introd. p. cxcv), but is $19'$ south, and $3'$ west of the situation given in captain Cook's chart. The bearings of the land at noon were,

- Point Look-out, distant 3 leagues, - S. 9° W.
- Moreton entrance to Glass-house Bay, S. 55° W.
- Cape Moreton, distant six leagues, - N. 18° W.

A strange vessel seen to the southward, had induced me to carry little sail all the morning ; it was now perceived not to be the Lady Nelson, but probably one of the two whalers known to be fishing off the coast ; we therefore made sail for Cape Moreton, and came up with it at four o'clock. I was much surprised to see a small, but dangerous reef lying between four and five miles off this cape to the north-east, which had not been noticed in the Norfolk ; in

Monday 26.

1802.
 July.
 Monday 26. entering Glass-house Bay I had then hauled close round Cape Moreton at dusk in the evening, and in coming out had passed too far westward to observe it. The longitude of Cape Moreton was now fixed by the time keepers at $153^{\circ} 26\frac{1}{2}'$ east, differing only $1\frac{1}{2}'$ from the lunar observations before taken in the Norfolk; when its latitude had been settled at $27^{\circ} 0\frac{1}{2}'$ south.

(Atlas,
 Plate X.)
 Tuesday 27. After passing the dangerous reef, we steered northward until three in the morning; and then hove to until daylight, for the purpose of examining the land about Double-island Point and Wide Bay, which did not appear to have been well distinguished by captain Cook. At seven o'clock the point bore N. 2° W., six leagues, and the shore abreast, a beach with sandy hills behind it, was distant six miles. Between the S. 63° W. and a low bluff head bearing S. 32° W., was a bight in the coast where the sand hills seemed to terminate; for the back land further south was high and rocky with small peaks on the top, similar to the ridge behind the Glass Houses, of which it is probably a continuation.

At half past nine we hauled close round Double-island Point, within a rock lying between one and two miles to the N. N. E., having 7 fathoms for the least water. The point answered captain Cook's description: it is a steep head, at the extremity of a neck of land which runs out two miles from the main, and lies in $25^{\circ} 56'$ south, and $153^{\circ} 13'$ east. On the north side of the point the coast falls back to the westward, and presents a steep shore of white sand; but in curving round Wide Bay the sandy land becomes very low, and a small opening was seen in it, leading to a piece of water like a lagoon; but the shoals which lie off the entrance render it difficult of access, if indeed there be a passage for any thing larger than boats. Had the Lady Nelson been with me, I should have attempted to get her into the lagoon, having previously entertained a conjecture that the head of Hervey's Bay might communicate with Wide Bay; but the apprehension that lieutenant Murray would arrive at the

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first rendezvous, and proceed to the next before we could join him, deterred me from attempting it with the Investigator or with boats. 1802.
July.
Tuesday 27.

Upon the north side of the opening there was a number of Indians, fifty as reported, looking at the ship, and near Double-island Point ten others had been seen, implying a more numerous population than is usual to the southward. I inferred from hence, that the piece of water at the head of Wide Bay was extensive and shallow; for in such places the natives draw much subsistence from the fish which there abound, and are more easily caught than in deep water. So far as could be seen from the mast head at three or four miles off, the water extended about five miles westward, to the feet of some hills covered with small wood. Its extent north and south could not be distinguished, and it seemed probable that one, and perhaps two streams fall into it; for there were many large medusas floating at the entrance, such as are usually found near the mouths of rivers in this country.

We passed the shoals of Wide Bay in from 12 to 5 fathoms water; and steered northward at the distance of six, and from that to two miles off the shore, until dark. Captain Cook describes this part of the coast as moderately high and very barren; there being great patches of moveable sand many acres in extent, through which appeared in some places the green tops of trees half buried, and in others the naked trunks of such as the sand had destroyed. We sailed some miles nearer to it than the Endeavour had done, and saw extensive, bare patches in many parts; but nothing to indicate the sands being moveable; and in general, there were shrubs, bushes, and some trees scattered over the hills in front of the sea. Nothing however can well be imagined more barren than this peninsula; but the smokes which arose from many parts, corroborated the remark made upon the population about Wide Bay; and bespoke that fresh water was not scarce in this sandy country.

Our course at night was directed by the fires on the shore,

1802. and the wind being moderate from the south-westward, it was con-
July. tinued until ten o'clock ; after which we stood off and on till day-
Wednes. 28. light, and then had Indian Head bearing S. 54° W. one mile and a
half. This head was so named by captain Cook, from the great
number of Indians assembled there in 1770. Mr. Westall's sketch of
it, taken as we steered close along the shore for Sandy Cape, will
(Atlas, show that the same sterility prevailed here as in the southern part
Plate XVIII. View 4.) of the peninsula ; and it continued to the northern extremity.

At eleven o'clock we reached Sandy Cape, and the master was
sent a-head to sound in a small passage through Break-sea Spit.
The ship followed under easy sail, until we got into 3 fathoms ; and
the master not making the signal for any deeper water, I tacked
and called the boat on board. The channel appeared to go quite
through the Spit, into Hervey's Bay ; but as there were, in many
parts, not more than 2 fathoms, it can be passed only by small ves-
sels. At noon,

Sandy Cape, distant 2 miles, bore - S. 64° to 80° W.
Indian Head, distant 7 leagues, - S. 12 E.

Our observations fixed Sandy Cape in 24° 42' south, and 153° 16'
east, being 3' north, and 7' east of the position assigned to it by
captain Cook.

At one o'clock we steered northward, close to the edge of
Break-sea Spit, searching for a passage through it into Hervey's
Bay. There were many small winding channels amongst the
breakers, and a larger being perceived at three, the boat was sent to
make an examination ; in the mean time, the wind having shifted to
north-west and become very light, we dropped the stream anchor
two miles from the Spit, in 11 fathoms, fine grey sand. The channel
where the boat was sounding, and out of which a tide came of more
than one mile an hour, bore W. by N. ½ N., and Sandy Cape S. 24°
to 41° W., about three leagues.

Soon after sunset the master returned, and reported the
channel to be nearly a mile and a half wide, and that it went quite

Hervey's Bay.]

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through to the bay ; but it did not generally contain more than fourteen feet water, and was therefore impassable for the Investigator. The bottom of this, and of the former small channel, as also the shoaler banks of the Spit, were of coral, mixed with coral sand. 1802.
July.
Wednes. 28.

At three in the morning; on a breeze springing up at S. W. by S., we stretched south-eastward; and a vessel having been observed over night off Indian Head, this tack was prolonged till seven o'clock; when seeing nothing of her, we stood back for the Spit, and coasted close along its east side as before, in from 10 to 5 fathoms water. At forty minutes after noon we passed over the tail of the Spit, in latitude $24^{\circ} 24'$; the water then deepening suddenly from 6 and 7, to 22 fathoms, and the white patches on Sandy Cape bearing S. 8° E. In standing N. W. by W. we crossed a bank in 11 fathoms, and on tacking, passed another part of it with only 5; the water upon it was not discoloured, nor had it been observed either by captain Cook, or by me in the Norfolk: it lies about 6 miles W. N. W. from the end of Bréak-sea Spit. Thurs. 29.

The first rendezvous appointed for lieutenant Murray, was the anchorage near Sandy Cape; but the wind being unfavourable, we did not reach it till four on the following afternoon; at which time the anchor was dropped in 7 fathoms, sandy bottom, with the outer extremity of the cape bearing S. 79° E., and the nearest part distant two miles. A vessel was seen on the outside of the Spit, which proved to be the Lady Nelson; and the master being sent with a boat to assist her through the passage, she anchored near us at sunset, and lieutenant Murray came on board. The account he gave of his separation, and the delay in arriving at the rendezvous, convinced me both of the Lady Nelson being an indifferent vessel, and of the truth of an observation before made upon the currents: that they run much stronger to the southward at the distance of six, and from that to twenty leagues off the coast, than they do close in with the shore. Mr. Murray not being much accustomed to make free with the land, had kept it barely within sight, and had been much retarded. Friday 30.

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1802.
 July.
 Friday 30. In order to give the botanists an opportunity of examining the productions of Sandy Cape, I determined to remain here a day ; and some natives being seen upon the beach, a boat was sent to commence an acquaintancè with them ; they however retired, and suffered Saturday 31. Mr. Brown to botanise without disturbance. Next morning the brig anchored within a quarter of a mile of the shore, to cover our landing parties ; and the armed boats being moored at grapnels, out of the reach of the natives, we separated into three divisions. The naturalist's party, consisting of six persons, walked along the shore towards the upper part of the bay ; Mr. Murray and his people went to cut wood for fuel ; and the party with me, also of six persons, including my native friend *Bongaree*, went towards the extremity of Sandy Cape. Several Indians with branches of trees in their hands, were there collected ; and whilst they retreated themselves, were waving to us to go back. Bongaree stripped off his clothes and laid aside his spear, as inducements for them to wait for him ; but finding they did not understand his language, the poor fellow, in the simplicity of his heart, addressed them in broken English, hoping to succeed better. At length they suffered him to come up, and by degrees our whole party joined ; and after receiving some presents, twenty of them returned with us to the boats, and were feasted upon the blubber of two porpoises, which had been brought on shore purposely for them. At two o'clock the naturalists returned, bringing some of the scoop nets used by the natives in catching fish ; and we then quitted our new friends, after presenting them with hatchets and other testimonials of our satisfaction.

These people go entirely naked, and otherwise much resemble the inhabitants of Port Jackson in personal appearance ; but they were more fleshy, perhaps from being able to obtain a better supply of food with the scoop nets, which are not known on the southern parts of the coast. I noticed in most of them a hard tumour on the outer knuckle of the wrist, which, if we understood them aright, was caused by the stretcher of the scoop coming in contact with this