

A
JOURNAL
OF
TRANSACTIONS AND EVENTS
ON THE
COAST OF LABRADOR.

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

SOON after my arrival in town, I entered into a partnership with captain Robert Scott, late commander of the *Speaker* East Indiaman, and Mr. John Scott, his younger brother, who had been his fourth mate on board the said ship. They were jointly to have one half of the trade, and I the other. My vessel and stock were to be received at a valuation of two thousand pounds, and they were to furnish an equal sum in cash. We appointed Mr. Robert Hunter, merchant in London, our factor, and ordered him to purchase another vessel for us, and provide such goods as I judged we should want.

VOL. II.

B

On

1773.
December.

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

On the thirtieth of December I fet off for the country to vifit my relations, returned to town again on the tenth of January, and we figned our articles of partnership a few days afterwards.

Mr. Hunter having purchafed an American-built fhip for us, almoft new, of two hundred and thirty tons burthen; we named her the Earl of Dartmouth, gave the command of her to Mr. John Dykes, fitted her for fea, and on the tenth of March fhe fail- ed for Cadiz, to take in a freight of wines for Mr. Adam Lym- burner of Quebec. There fhe was to procure bread, flour, planks, boards, hogthead and tierce packs, hoops, and fuch other articles as were cheaper, in general, at that place than in England, and carry them to Charles Harbour for the ufe of the company. Mr. John Scott failed in her in quality of fupercargo.

Captain Monday having mifbehaved himfelf greatly, in fe- veral inflances, during the courfe of my laft voyage, I difcharg- ed him, and gave the command of the Lady Tyrconnet to Mr. Thomas Venture. That vefel having taken on board all fuch things as had been provided in London, failed on the twenty- third of March for Plymouth; where fhe was to receive feveral other goods. Captain Scott embarked; as did alfo Mr. James Pitkethley, whom we had hired to ferve us in the double capa- city of furgeon and clerk, in the place of Mr. Williams. I was to go by land to Poole and Bridport, and meet the vefel at Plymouth.

I left London the next day, and arrived at Plymouth on the fecond of April, where I found the vefel fafe moored.

Having fhipped off all our goods, and hired a joiner, two men, and a couple of women fervants, we failed at fix in the morn- ing of the thirteenth for Waterford or Cork; as the wind might beft fuit.

The

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

3

The wind being fair and a fine gale, we ran down the Channel at the rate of seven knots. At three in the afternoon, captain Venture, being employed in the cabin in preparing some tackle for trout on his arrival in Labrador, did not pay proper attention to the course of the vessel; in consequence of which she ran upon that well-known rock called Rundlestone, which lies about four miles southward of the Land's-end. She instantly stopped, and we immediately saw many splinters from her bottom, floating on the surface of the water. In a few minutes she went on again, and we tried the pumps continually, but she made no water; this surprised us greatly, for the shock was a severe one. It blew fresh all night, and the tide out of the Irish and Bristol Channels, having set us farther to leeward than we had supposed it would; the next morning we found ourselves far to leeward of Waterford, and therefore bore up for Cork, where we anchored at eight in the evening near the village of Cove.

1774.
April.

Thursday 14.

We applied to Mr. Jasper Lucas, a merchant in Cork, to whom we had a letter of credit, for such provisions and other necessaries as we were in want of; and we engaged a number of young men to go out with, and serve us in Labrador for the space of two summers and a winter; among whom were nine coopers and some fishermen.


As I could not be persuaded that the vessel had received no damage from the rock, I at length prevailed upon captain Scott to have her bottom examined; and on the twenty-sixth we laid her on shore for that purpose. We then found that fourteen feet of her keel was torn entirely off, close to her bottom; and two planks on her starboard bulge, three feet long, shivered to splinters; which shewed that she had struck upon the crown of one rock, and against the side of another. At high-water she

Tuesday 26.

Wednes. 27.

B 2 was

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

 was heeled to the other side, and when the tide returned, she filled up to her decks, and laid her whole cargo under water.

Thursday 28. On the twenty-eighth we began to unload the vessel. The goods were obliged to be sent up to Cork, and stored under the care of a custom-house officer. Such as were not spoiled, were dried; and the rest were condemned. We then had a regular survey on the vessel, when it was discovered, that eight of her floor timbers on one side, and six on the other were snapped short off. In consequence of which, and the other damages together, she was condemned as unfit to proceed on her voyage.

Saturday 30. On the thirtieth, we purchased a new brig, built at Cork, but the inside work was not quite finished; the burthen was one hundred and thirty tons, and name, Success.

The Lady Tyrconnel being thrown upon the hands of her under-writers, it was necessary that captain Venture should remain to take care of her. We therefore appointed Mr. John Lafoyle, late mate of the above vessel, and formerly boatswain of the Speaker, to be master of the Success; but did not provide any mate under him, as captain Scott undertook, in fact, to command the vessel. We began to reship the goods on the fifth of May, and having completed every thing by the twelfth, we cleared out of the custom-house, and in the afternoon warped down the river as low as Marshwall End.

May.
Thursday 5.
Thursday 12. The tide serving in the morning of the fourteenth, we worked down to Cove, where the blundering pilot ran the brig aground upon the spit; she floated off again with the flood, and received no damage.

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In

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

In working down the river, the people observed a country-
man going to Cork to sell milk, which he carried in a couple of
churns flung, one on each side of his horse. We being then very
near the shore, some of them began to banter him, which put him
out of temper, and he retorted with some warmth. At that in-
stant the vessel was put in stays; when the shivering of the sails,
and the noise which the crew made in bracing them about, so af-
frighted the horse that he threw his rider and galloped off; spill-
ing the milk all the way he went. A loud laugh immediately
broke out from the whole crew, accompanied by many taunt-
ing speeches, which, together with the bruise he had received,
and the loss of his milk, so exasperated poor Paddy, that he in-
stantly stripped into buff, advanced to the edge of the water,
and flourished his fists about in a menacing manner: thus he
vented his anger, both by words and gestures, till we were too
far off to hear his voice.

1774.
May.

We embarked all our servants the next day: and likewise
provided a couple of pregnant sows, which we were assured
would not pig in less than six weeks; but one of them actually
brought forth in the boat, as she was going on board. As I
had not paid for them, I obliged the feller to exchange her,
since she did not prove according to contract.

Sunday 15.

On the sixteenth we got under weigh with the latter part of
the afternoon's tide, and worked outside of the spit, where we
lay till day-light the next morning, when we went to sea with
a fresh breeze, and at sun-set were abreast of Cape Clear.

Monday 16.

Tuesday 17.
Wind
N. E. fresh.

We had the pleasure to find our new vessel sail well; and no-
thing remarkable occurred till the thirty-first. There being then
a great head swell, occasioned by preceding strong gales at west;
at one in the afternoon we had the misfortune to carry away
our

Tuesday 13.

^{1774.} our main-mast, eight feet above the deck; the fall of which carried away also the boom, larboard cat-head, bumpkin and rail in the waist; together with both top-masts, and the main-top gallant mast. Had this misfortune happened on any of the last seven days, we should have been distressed to the utmost; as the weather was so tempestuous, and there was so much sea all that time, that we should have been obliged to have cut the whole away, without having a spar on board, except one top, and one top-gallant mast. Unfortunately, two good seamen were aloft at the time, both of whom were saved, but very much bruised; particularly one of them. By ten at night we had got all the wreck on board, and found neither yards nor sails damaged. We laid the vessel to under the fore-fail, and the rest went to sleep, while Pitkethley and I kept the watch all night. As there was but little wind she rolled, gunwale to, incessantly; and I often thought she would have turned bottom up; for she is well built for that work, and is the most uneasy vessel in a sea that I ever failed in. She is also of true Hibernian fabric, having a pine bottom, and oak upper works.

June.
Thursday 2. By six o'clock in the evening of the second of June, we had got up jury-masts, such as they were, and then made sail again. The next day we had a longitudinal observation of the sun and moon, by which we found ourselves to be 35° 34' West from Greenwich.

Saturday 4. By an observation of the sun and moon, we found our longitude to be 36° 24' west from London. We saw a gannet; a bird which is seldom seen out of soundings; and many sailors affirm that it never is, but they are mistaken. This day we had another misfortune: we brought two sows big with pig from Ireland, under an assurance that they would not pig in less than six weeks, but one of them brought forth to-day. Being

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

7

ing the anniversary of the King's birth-day, captain Scott and myself drank an extra bottle to his Majesty's health, and gave our people some rum, that they might do the same.

1774.
June.

This day we saw the first penguin and several bulls. Longitude per account corrected from the last observation 48° 42'. We have had hard gales with a great sea for this week past, which made the vessel labour prodigiously.

Friday 10.

We saw a large island of ice; a sure proof that we were at no very great distance from the land. Latitude 51° 45' North. Longitude 52° 35' West.

Sunday 12.

By a meridian observation to-day we found the latitude to be 51° 38' North, and by an observation of the sun and moon at four o'clock this afternoon, our longitude was 54° 3' West, by which Cape Charles bears North West by North, distance seventy miles. If therefore, the observation is correct, and the wind holds, we shall have sight of Belle Isle at four o'clock to-morrow morning; and in order to ascertain the truth of the observation, we steered North West by North.


Monday 13.
Wind
S. W. fresh.

N. B. Both the bearing and course are, by compass, variation 2½ points, West.

Having continued to steer the same course, and sail at the same rate ever since yesterday afternoon, at four o'clock this morning we saw the island of Belle Isle bearing West North West, distance five leagues. At five we saw the land of Drift Mountains, Cape Charles, and Cape St. Lewis; and, continuing our course we ran directly into Charles Harbour, where we anchored at one o'clock in the afternoon, by which we found the observation true within four or five miles; an exactness very sufficient for every purpose. At three I went up to the Lodge in

Tuesday 14.
S. E. by S.
fresh.

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

 ^{1774.}
_{June.} in a skiff, and found all my people well, excepting one man who had lost his toes by the frost in May last; and had the mortification to hear, that there was a general failure of seals last season. I landed all the shore-men at the Narrows, to raft down timber for building.

Wednesd. 15. After breakfast I went down in a punt with two boys; and
Wind overtaking the skiff with a raft of timber, we took her in tow
S. W. to Flat Point, then made the best of our way on board. At
moderate. four in the afternoon captain Scott and myself, with four hands went off in a small skiff for Port Marnham, and arrived there at ten. We found the buildings almost completed, and the people waiting for the racks to set up the pound. We looked into Fox Harbour, and shot two ducks, and gathered a few eggs by the way.

Clear, hot weather.

Thursday 16. In the morning I went up to the head of the tide; there
variable. were no spring fish yet, but plenty of flinks in the river. After breakfast I walked upon the hills to reconnoitre the country, and to look for a deer. At noon the batteau arrived from the Colleroon with the racks.

Weather, cloudy and moist.

Friday 17. Early in the morning we attempted to go home in the bat-
S. W. teau, but were obliged to return. I then sat some time on the
moderate. eastern point to shoot ducks, and killed three. At nine o'clock we set off in the punt and got on board the brig at two in the afternoon. I spent the remainder of the day in looking after the people on shore. The long-boat went to Port Marnham with some necessaries.

Cloudy weather.

At

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

9

At four this morning captain Scott and I went in the yawl with two hands to the mouth of Indian Tickle to fish for cod; we killed half a quintal, and returned home at one in the afternoon. At three we went with four hands to the Lodge. Soon after our arrival there, two canoes of Nescaupick Indians came. They made me a present of a beaver, and a marten skin; for which I gave them in return, some rum and gunpowder. The falmoniers fixed the pound to-day, and flopped half of the river. They also began a new house for themselves.

1774.
June.
Saturday 18.
Wind S. W.
moderate.

freq.

Clear, hot weather.

We had twelve spring-fish in the pound this morning, and I killed a flink with my rod. In the evening we returned on board.

Sunday 19.
S. W. *freq.*

Clear weather.

The shoremen were employed this morning in warping the vessel into the cove; they afterwards turned those seal-nets which were spread upon the ground, then stowed most of them on a scaffold. I sent a boat out a fishing, and they killed near a quintal. The long-boat returned from Port Marnham with the batteau: they reported, that Bettres killed a tierce of fish yesterday with one net, and had flopped the river. The batteau went back with empty casks and other things. We planted some potatoes on Otter Island. The Nescaupick Indians came down, and I introduced them to the Esquimaux who remained here last winter; no others being yet arrived. A small brig of Hooper's arrived in Cape Harbour last night, as did a shalloway of Coghlan's, at this place; and this morning, the surgeon of York Fort, who had been in her to Alexis River, came on board our vessel. From him we learned, that the Nautilus Sloop of War, captain William Parker, had arrived at Chateau. The shalloway afterwards failed for Chateau, and I sent by her some

Monday 20
S. W.

VOL. II.

C

letters

THE THIRD VOYAGE.

1774.
June. letters which I brought from England. In the evening the people returned from Charles River.

Clear and hot all day here; but there was a thick fog at the Cape.

Tuesday 21. Having sent the Indians away, captain Scott accompanied me in the long-boat with five hands, for the Colleroon; and arrived there in the evening. We found all things ready, plenty of fish in the river, and a new shalloway nearly finished. We carried the crew four new nets.

Wind
W. by N.
N.

Wednesday 22. The people were employed in calking the shalloway, and in fitting her rigging. I went in my kyack up the river to look at the sawpits, and afterwards to Juniper Point. Evident marks of deer and geese were to be seen there, and it appeared to be a good place for hay. We had sixty fish to-day.

S. W. by W.
little.

Weather clear and hot.

Thursday 23. The people were employed as yesterday. I went to the Alexander in my kyack, where I examined the salmon-pound, and tailed a large trap for deer in the marsh which is at the mouth of it.

E. by E.
hard.

Rainy weather.

Friday 24. At low water in the afternoon, a young hind crossed the shoals from Juniper point, for the north west point of the Alexander. I waylaid her there, but, on winding me, she turned back: I fired both my rifles at her, but was at too great a distance. At high water, the shalloway was launched and named the Otter. Two hundred and sixty-five fish were taken to-day: they come in much faster than usual. The first spring fish appeared here on the third of this month.

S. by W. hard
and squally.

Showery, dirty weather.

We