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978-1-108-06211-4 - Voyage of H.M.S. Blonde to the Sandwich Islands, in the Years 1824–1825: Captain the Right

Hon. Lord Byron, Commander

Maria Callcott

Frontmatter

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Voyage of H.M.S. *Blonde* to the Sandwich Islands, in the Years 1824–1825

George Anson Byron (1789–1868), cousin of the famous poet, was a naval officer and the seventh Baron Byron. When the king and queen of Hawaii died of measles in July 1824 on a visit to England, Byron was chosen to lead the voyage that returned the bodies to their native land. Prepared by Maria Graham (1785–1842), known later as Lady Callcott, this work was published in 1826 and organised into two parts: the first gives a brief history of the islands, culminating in an account of the fatal visit; the second and larger part is compiled from the journals of those on board H.M.S. *Blonde*. Engravings made from the drawings of the ship's artist, Robert Dampier, complement observations about the geography of Hawaii, its people and their customs. The remarkable journey home involved the first European sighting of Malden Island and the rescue of survivors from a shipwreck.

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COMPILED BY MARIA CALLCOTT



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Engraved from a drawing taken on the spot, by Paul Sauer.

GRAND VOYAGE OF FEELI, AT HAWAII.

Published Decr 1816, by John Murray, London.

The material originally positioned here is too large for reproduction in this reissue. A PDF can be downloaded from the web address given on page iv of this book, by clicking on 'Resources Available'.

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V O Y A G E

OF

H. M. S. BLONDE

TO THE

SANDWICH ISLANDS,

IN THE YEARS 1824-1825.

CAPTAIN THE RIGHT HON. LORD BYRON, COMMANDER.

LONDON :

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE-STREET.

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LONDON:

PRINTED BY THOMAS DAVISON, WHITEFRIARS.

PREFACE.

THE following narrative has been compiled from the various journals and notes made by some of the officers and other gentlemen that accompanied Lord Byron on his interesting voyage to the Sandwich Islands.

It is much to be regretted that Mr. Bloxam, the Chaplain of his Majesty's ship, Blonde, was prevented by the suddenness of his departure from England, in order to fulfil his duty in a distant colony, from arranging his own papers and those of his companions.

The Editor is conscious that some things may have been omitted, and some, possibly, mistaken, notwithstanding every endeavour to do justice to the work, owing to a want of that local knowledge which Mr. Bloxam, as an eye-witness, must have possessed, and with which he would, no doubt, have extended and adorned his narrative, had he fortunately remained to prepare it for publication.

These observations refer, of course, chiefly to the second part of the following work, which contains the account of the Blonde's voyage.

In the first part, the Editor has consulted the voyages of Cook, Vancouver, Dickson and Portlock, Turnbull, and several other English navigators, besides the French and Russian voyages. Much valuable information was also received verbally from the missionaries, besides that contained in Mr. Ellis's excellent account of Hawaii; and with respect to the visit of the king and queen of the Sandwich Islands to England, the most liberal assistance has been afforded by the gentleman who acted as their friend, no less than as their guardian, while they were in London.

As the local situation of the Sandwich Islands renders them very important in the eyes of every maritime and commercial nation, particularly such as may have a view to trading between the rising states on the western coast of America, and the East Indies or China, it was believed that an account of the Islands and of their history, from the period of their discovery, would not be unacceptable.

The rapid progress that civilization has made in these Islands is also a subject of great interest; and as the chiefs

PREFACE.

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have voluntarily chosen England as guardian to their infant state, and lean towards it with affectionate respect, as the source whence they expect all that is to be beneficial to them, it was thought, that to diffuse a knowledge of their past and present condition would perhaps contribute to objects so worthy of a great and ancient people, as the amending and polishing an innocent and ingenious nation, and fostering the growth of religion, polity, and literature, where hitherto man has scarcely assumed his proper rank in the scale of creation.

For the few notices concerning natural history which the work contains, it is chiefly indebted to the zealous attention of Mr. A. Bloxam, brother to the chaplain of the Blonde, who, if not a learned naturalist, deserves the praise of a diligent and sensible collector. For some facts connected with the subject, the Editor is obliged to the gentlemen connected with that department in the British Museum, who very kindly gave permission to consult them, and to inspect the specimens of natural history deposited in the Museum.

It is to be regretted, that the practised collector of botanical specimens who went in the Blonde to the Sandwich Islands should not have furnished any account of the plants,

useful or curious, which he collected for the Horticultural Society, or that some of the very enlightened members of that Society should not have done so. The field is in some respects new; and it is acknowledged by all the foreign navigators, that the collection made during the Blonde's voyage is one of the most curious in Europe. The few notices that are to be found in the present work concerning the useful plants were taken chiefly from the books, printed and manuscript, in Sir Joseph Banks's library, to which the kindness and liberality of Mr. Brown allowed the Editor free access.

The drawings, from which the engravings were made, are by Mr. Dampier, to whom the Editor is greatly indebted for the use of his sensible and agreeable journal.

Something should be said as to the spelling of the names of persons and places in the following pages. It differs entirely from the system of orthography adopted by Captain Cook; and it was not without consideration that his practice was departed from. The Islands are no longer without literature: the Roman letters are used; and the sounds of the vowels which have been adopted are rather those given them by the Italians than the English; hence the *oo* of

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Cook is now expressed by *u*, and so on. The names of the Islands may now be considered as fixed by the authority of the chiefs; and the printing-press of *Oahu*, formerly *Woahoo*, has given stability to the hitherto fluctuating orthography of the Islands.

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