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A Voyage of Discovery to the North
Pacific Ocean, and Round the World
[excerpt]

by George Vancouver

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A
VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY
TO THE
NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN,
AND
ROUND THE WORLD;

In which the Coast of North-west America has been carefully examined
and accurately surveyed.

UNDERTAKEN

BY HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND,

Principally with a View to ascertain the existence of any NAVIGABLE
COMMUNICATION between the

North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans ;

AND PERFORMED IN THE YEARS

1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794 AND 1795,

IN THE

DISCOVERY SLOOP OF WAR, AND ARMED TENDER CHATHAM,

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANCOUVER.

Dedicated, by Permission, to HIS MAJESTY.

A NEW EDITION, WITH CORRECTIONS,
ILLUSTRATED WITH NINETEEN VIEWS AND CHARTS.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

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London:

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

1801.

CHAPTER VIII.

Passage to the Southward—The Chatham sent to Port Bodega—Arrival of the Discovery at Port Francisco—Chatham arrives there—Account of her Proceedings—Proceed to Monterrey—Joined by the Dædalus—Conduct of the Governor—Proceed to the Southward—Anchor at S^{ta} Barbara—Visit Bueno Ventura—Proceed along the Coast to the Southward—Arrive at St. Diego and the adjacent Islands—Astronomical and Nautical Observations.

ON leaving the port of Nootka, our progress was so much impeded by the want of wind, and by the influence of those very extraordinary counter tides or currents already noticed, that by six in the evening of Tuesday the 8th we were not more than two leagues to the southward of point Breakers, about which time a strange vessel was seen from the mast head to windward; but as the night was approaching, and as I wished to avoid any delay, we took no other notice of her, but continued our course to the S. E. agreeably to my former determination of recommencing our researches on the southern parts of New Al-

bion, and of procuring such of the necessary refreshments as those countries afford, and which we now very perceptibly began to require.

As I had little doubt that the store ship would join us before we should have quitted those shores, and as St. Diego appeared to me to be the most likely harbour to answer several purposes, I intended to unload her there, and to give our vessels such necessary repair and re-equipment as each might demand.

With variable winds from the N. W. and S. E. we made the best of our way. These winds, particularly the former, though blowing a moderate breeze, was frequently attended with very foggy weather; we however made so good a progress, that by the afternoon of Monday the 14th, we passed cape Orford; to the southward of which, as we proceeded along the coast, we observed on the eminences and hills that form the shores, at certain distances, large fires burning throughout the whole night; a circumstance that had not before occurred to my observation on this coast.

Being anxious to obtain some certain information respecting the port of Bodega, of which the inclemency of the weather the preceding season had disappointed me, I directed Mr. Puget, on Tuesday the 15th, to make the best of his way thither, whilst I proceeded to St. Francisco, in
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the hope of meeting Sen^r Quadra there, or at Monterrey, with sufficient credentials for settling the business depending about Nootka; which, it was not improbable, might render our return thither immediately necessary. Mr. Puget having received his directions, and having appointed St. Francisco as a rendezvous where he would either meet or hear from me, he immediately departed for the port of Bodega; and as there was not the least probability of Mr. Menzies being able to visit that part of the coast by any other opportunity, he accompanied Mr. Puget in pursuit of botanical information.

In the evening cape Mendocino was seen bearing S. E. at the distance of seven or eight leagues. During the night, and all the next day, Wednesday the 16th, the wind was light and very baffling, attended with a thick fog, or hazy weather, that continued until the morning of Thursday the 17th, when, with a fine breeze from the N.N.W. we steered along the coast to the south-east of cape Mendocino. At noon the observed latitude was $39^{\circ} 18'$; the coast then in sight extending by compass from N. to E. S. E. the nearest shore N. E. distant about a league.

In the afternoon we passed point Barro de Arena, and to the north-west of it some breakers were now seen, about two miles from the shore, that had not been noticed on our former visit.

The Chatham, though at some distance before us, was yet in sight, and kept close to the land; but we directed our course for point de los Reys. Light baffling winds, attended by fogs or thick weather, prevented our reaching that distance until noon of Saturday the 19th; when we passed that promontory with a pleasant breeze from the N.N.W. which, by seven in the evening, brought us to an anchor in port St. Francisco, near our former birth off the Presidio.

We were soon hailed from the shore, upon which a boat was dispatched thither, and immediately returned with our civil and attentive friend Sen^r Sal; who, in addition to the offers of his services and hospitality, gratified us by communicating the interesting intelligence of the state of Europe, up to so late a date as the preceding February; which, as may be naturally expected, had long been an object of our most anxious curiosity. After supper Sen^r Sal retired to the shore, and the next morning I received from him two letters; the one requesting, in an official form, that I would acquaint him in writing of our arrival in port St. Francisco, of the supplies we should want, and of the time I intended to remain in that port, in order that he might immediately communicate the same to the governor of the province; the other stating that, under the superior orders by which alone his conduct could

be

be governed, he was obliged to make known to me, that no individual could be permitted to come on shore, but for the purposes of procuring wood and water, excepting myself and one officer, or midshipman, who might pass to the Presidio, where I should be received and attended as on our former visit.

These restrictions were of a nature so unexpected, ungracious, and degrading, that I could not but consider them as little short of a dismissal from St. Francisco, and I was left in the greatest perplexity to account for a reception so totally different from what we had experienced on a former occasion, and so contrary to what I had been taught to expect, by the letters with which I had been honored from the viceroy of New Spain, in return to my letter of thanks for the great civilities that had been conferred upon us.

I was given to understand, that a captain in the Spanish infantry, named Arrillaga, had arrived at Monterrey some time in the course of the preceding spring; and being the senior officer, had taken upon himself the jurisdiction of the province, with sentiments apparently not the most favorable towards foreign visitors.

In support of this opinion, and in justice to our worthy friend Sen' Sal, it is necessary to remark, that it evidently appeared to be with the utmost

utmost repugnance that he was compelled to deliver, in compliance with the orders of his senior officer, these injunctions. In reply to which, I stated briefly to Sen^r Sal, that I had put into port St. Francisco to recruit our wood and water, to procure such refreshments as the country might afford, and to wait the arrival of our consort the Chatham; with which vessel this port had been appointed our next rendezvous previous to our parting company. That as soon as we should have obtained our necessary supplies, which would not occupy more than two or three days, we should depart; and that he might be assured the restrictions contained in his other letter, respecting our communication with the shore, should be duly observed.

This port, however, was the rendezvous of the Chatham; and as I had not been denied the privilege of procuring some fresh beef, I determined to remain until she should arrive. This took place, however, much earlier than I could have expected from the nature of the service on which she had been dispatched, as we had the pleasure of seeing her at St. Francisco the next day, Monday the 21st.

Our water had been procured, when we were here before, just behind the beach, in a low space covered with spiry grass, which was at that time flooded by the rain; this being now quite dry,
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we were obliged to resort to a small stream of most excellent water; but as this was surrounded by a loose morass, through which we were obliged to pass, the accomplishment of this object was rendered so tedious, as to detain us here until the evening of Wednesday the 23d, when we prepared for our departure; and at four the next morning, Thursday the 24th, having the ebb tide, and a fresh breeze from the N. W. we turned out of the port. The wind in the offing was very light and baffling, but we directed our course with it in the best manner we were able towards Monterrey; where I expected to find the deserters of the Chatham, and where, by explaining the peculiar nature of our situation to Senr Arillaga, the acting commandant of the province, I was in hopes of meeting a reception worthy of our situation, notwithstanding his former restrictive orders.

It appeared by Mr. Puget's journal, that from light variable winds, calms and fogs, he did not reach the entrance into port Bodega until the morning of the 20th, when he stood in between its north point, and the flat rock lying off it, noticed on the 13th of February, 1792; and anchored in six fathoms water, the flat rock bearing by compass S. W. and an opening in the land supposed to be the mouth of the harbour, W. N. W. Here Mr. Puget remarks, that in gain-
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ing this station it was again his misfortune to be incommoded by a thick fog; but as such impediments had already detained him far beyond his expectations, he had embraced the opportunity of the first clear interval to bear away for this narrow passage, and found the depth of water from ten to four fathoms; the flat rock was found to lie from the north point of the port S. 63 E. distant a quarter of a mile. About a mile from the flat rock a reef of rocks extends S. 13 W.; off its north point is a shoal two or three ship's lengths in extent; this ought not to be nearer approached than the soundings of four fathoms will admit, and is discoverable by the weeds it produces. The best passage through this narrow channel to the anchorage which the Chatham occupied, is found by keeping the northern or continental shore on board; at which station Mr. Puget inserts the following account of his transactions.

“Immediately after the vessel was secured, Mr. Johnstone was sent, accompanied by Mr. Menzies, to examine port Bodega, which they accomplished by noon, having rounded out the sandy bay to the northward in nine and twelve fathoms water. The entrance of the harbour is obstructed by a shoal of sand, on which the greatest depth is nine feet at the last quarter's flood. Mr. Johnstone went through this passage
close

close to the high land, and at the back of the low spit before us, he found an extensive lagoon, which also had the same soundings as in the entrance. On landing they were joined by some Indians, who had previously made a large fire on the north corner of the bay. These people, in their manners and conduct, were perfectly inoffensive; their numbers did not exceed thirty, of all ages and of both sexes; some few had bows and arrows, which they disposed of to our party for beads and trinkets; the language they spoke was a mixture of Spanish and their own provincial dialect, and from this we may infer, that they were either subordinate to the Spaniards, or that they had a constant connection with the settlement at St. Francisco.

“ On the bluff of the entrance is fixed, in a conspicuous place, a pole, having a staff lashed across its upper end, which was conjectured to be the Spanish token of possession; indeed by the Indians our party learned, if they were rightly understood, that some of that nation were actually there, at the extremity or north-west end of the lagoon.

“ Mr. Johnstone observed the men to be in general naked, but the women wore skins of animals about their shoulders and waists, and were as much tattooed, or punctured, as any of the females of the Sandwich islands; the hair of both
sexes

sexes was black, which they wore clubbed behind.

“The soil is sandy, and in general covered with bushes and different sorts of verdure; the country, inland, is of a moderate height; but as their examination was confined to the beach and its environs, they remained ignorant of the vegetable productions the more inland parts afforded.

“Great numbers of the feathered tribe were seen, white and brown pelicans, gulls, plover, and a variety of aquatic fowl; on the shores they observed eagles, hawks, the red-breasted lark, crows and ravens. No quadrupeds were seen, they only distinguished the track, and saw the dung, of what was considered to be black cattle.

“Having completed their examination of this part of the bay, and seeing no likelihood of a favorable change in the weather, we weighed at two in the afternoon, it being my intention immediately to proceed to the examination of the next opening; but the wind coming to the S.W. with a very threatening appearance from that quarter, when we were off it, deterred me from pursuing my first plan.

“This opening is formed by two apparently low points, from which extends a vast deal of broken water; but whether there was a passage between them we could not determine. I should be inclined to think there is not; for which reason

son I did not think it prudent to stand too far in, as, from the direction of the wind, we should not have been able to have hauled out clear of the land; had we met with shoal water, our depth in that situation being seven fathoms, having from our anchorage to abreast of this opening had from that depth to thirteen fathoms, irregular hard bottom, but not rocky; and as this part of the coast does not afford any known safe shelter, from whence we could have dispatched the boats, and left the vessel in perfect security; I judged it best, from such circumstances, and the continual thickness and bad appearance of the weather, to give up the examination until a more favorable opportunity should offer, and make the best of my way to join the Discovery at St. Francisco."

I was much disappointed that these untoward circumstances had prevented Mr. Puget from completing his survey of port Bodega; and I should certainly have given directions for a second attempt, had it not been for the reception we had met with at St. Francisco; which had probably arisen either from the jealousy or too general instructions of the acting governor of the province; whose displeasure, under our present circumstances, I did not think it prudent to excite, especially as I had understood that the Spaniards had it in contemplation to make an establishment

lishment at port Bodega, in which case a second visit might have been productive of offence.

In proceeding towards Monterrey we made so little progress, that we were still at no great distance from St. Francisco the next morning, Friday the 25th; when a vessel was descried to the N. N. W. and on standing towards her, she proved to be the *Dædalus*.

About noon, Lieutenant Hanson came on board, and informed me that he had pursued the route I had directed towards New South Wales. That he had taken from New Zealand two of the natives, in order that they might instruct the inhabitants of port Jackson in the use and management of the flax plant. That he had arrived at the settlement on the 20th of April, 1793, and was in readiness to depart on the 20th of June, but that he did not receive orders from Major Grose until the end of that month; when he put to sea, and passed to the westward of the Society islands, in sight of the island of Scilly, the only land seen between port Jackson and Owhyhee, which was in sight on the 1st of September; and that, after procuring some refreshments amongst those islands, he took his departure on the 8th of that month for Nootka, which land was made the evening we left that port; the *Dædalus* being the vessel we then saw to the westward. She anchored in Friendly cove the

next

next morning; and having obtained a supply of wood, water, and other necessaries, Mr. Hanson sailed from thence on the 13th of October, agreeably to the directions I had there left for his future proceedings.

Mr. Hanson brought a supply of provisions, and such parts of the stores which I had demanded, as could be procured. From him I learned that Major Grose was very solicitous that I should again attempt the introduction of the cattle of this country into New South Wales; notwithstanding, that out of the number I had before sent thither in the *Dædalus*, one cow, three ewes, and a ram only, had survived the voyage. The failure of the rest had been attributed to their being too old, and it was therefore hoped that an assortment of young ones would be more successful. With respect to the swine, Mr. Hanson's endeavours had been attended with greater success, as he had carried from Otaheite, and had landed at Port Jackson, seventy of those animals, which, from the excellency of the breed, must necessarily prove a most valuable acquisition.

The wind continued variable between the south and east, blowing a moderate breeze, and sometimes accompanied with foggy weather; in which, on the evening and night of Monday the 28th, although many guns were fired to denote

our situation, we parted company with the *Chatham*; but the *Dædalus* kept her station near us. This unpleasant weather continued with little alteration, attended generally by adverse winds, until the morning of Friday the 1st of November, when, with a breeze at W. S. W. and thick hazy weather, we reached Monterrey, where we anchored with the *Dædalus* about eleven in the forenoon, and moored nearly in our former station. Here we found our comfort, which, notwithstanding the disadvantages of the weather, had reached this place on the 30th of the preceding month.

Whilst we were employed in securing the ship, I sent an officer to acquaint the governor of our arrival, and of the object of my visit, and also with an offer on my part to salute the garrison, if an equal compliment would be returned.

This being assented to, I waited on Senr Arillaga, the commandant, and was received with the ceremony usual on such occasions; as soon as this was ended, I was preparing to state my reasons for having entered the ports under his government, when he stopped me from proceeding further, and begged that the subject might be referred to a written correspondence, by which mode he conceived matters would be more fully explained. I then made inquiries after the deserters from the *Chatham*, and was given to understand



J. Fidler-Sculpt

derived from a sketch taken on the spot by J. Fidler

The PRESIDIO of MONTEREY. www.americanjourneys.org

derstand by Sen^r Arrillaga, that a few days after our departure from hence, in the month of January, they had made their appearance; on which they were taken into custody, and sent prisoners to St. Blas, in order to be removed from thence to Nootka. The armourer, sent on board the Chatham from the mission of St. Carlos, I had promised to return thither, either on receiving the deserters at Nootka, or in the event of their not being taken at the conclusion of the season; he was therefore discharged from the Chatham, and sent on shore.

In the afternoon, on a signal being made from the shore for one of our boats, a Spanish officer was brought off, who delivered to me two letters from Sen^r Arrillaga. One stating, that he was without orders for the reception of foreign vessels into the ports under his jurisdiction, excepting in cases where the rights of hospitality demanded his assistance; and requesting that I would communicate to him the objects that had brought me hither, by which his future determinations would be governed. The other contained expressions desirous of preserving the subsisting harmony; but at the same time stated, that without departing from the *spirit* of the orders by which his conduct was to be regulated, he could not permit any persons to come on shore, excepting the commander of foreign vessels, with

one or two officers; or the individuals employed in procuring wood and water, which service was to be performed with all possible speed; and that the rest of our wants would be supplied with the greatest dispatch on my giving him previous notice.

The tenor of these letters being very different from what my conversation with Sen^r Arrillaga had given me reason to expect, when I visited him at the Presidio; I was reduced to the necessity of sending him the next day, Saturday the 2d, a full explanation of the objects of our voyage, and of the motives that had induced me to enter the ports under his jurisdiction. In this I stated, that I had been intrusted by his Britannic Majesty with a voyage of discovery, and for the exploring of various countries in the Pacific Ocean; of which the north-west coast of America was one of the principal objects. That previously to my departure from England, I had been given to understand, not only that I should be hospitably received on this coast by the subjects of the Spanish crown, but that such information of the progress of my voyage as I might wish to communicate to the Court of Great Britain, would be forwarded by the way of St. Blas by the officers of his Catholic Majesty residing in these ports; and that I was instructed to make a free and unreserved communication of all discoveries made

made in the course of my researches, to any Spanish officer or officers whom I might chance to meet, engaged in similar pursuits with myself; and that I now purposed to transmit to Senr Quadra a copy of my charts and surveys, that had been made since our departure from this port the preceding year. That the voyage in which we were engaged, was for the general use and benefit of mankind, and that under these circumstances, we ought rather to be considered as labouring for the good of the world in general, than for the advantage of any particular sovereign, and that the court of Spain would be more early informed of, and as much benefited by my labours, as the kingdom of Great Britain. That in consequence of these instructions, I had exchanged some charts with Senr Quadra, and others were ready for his reception. That I had not only been treated on my former visit here with the greatest friendship, and unbounded hospitality; but had received from his Excellency, the viceroy of Mexico, the strongest assurances, that these attentions had been shewn in compliance with the desire of his Catholic Majesty, and of the orders he had issued for that purpose; and that I had inclosed his Excellency's letters for his perusal, to certify him, that I did not intend any deception. That our examination and survey would still require another year to complete it; and that I had made

choice of this port, or St. Diego, for the purpose of refitting our vessels, unloading the store-ship, and making such astronomical observations as were become necessary for prosecuting our researches with correctness. The manner in which these services would require to be performed on shore I particularly pointed out, and hoped that the officers and people would be permitted the same recreation on foot and on horseback, with which they had been indulged on our former visit, under such limitations and restrictions as he might think proper to prescribe.

On Monday the 4th I received from Sen^r Arrillaga a reply to my letter, in which he was pleased to compliment me upon my ingenuoufness; and thanked me for having given him the perusal of the viceroy's letters. In vindication of himself he said, that there was no royal order for the reception of our vessels, like that produced by M. de la Pérouse. That he did not comprehend that his excellency expected that we should repair a second time to the ports under his jurisdiction; and that even Sen^r Quadra before his departure had given the commander of the garrison to understand, by a letter of which Sen^r Arrillaga sent me a copy, that the attentions we had received on the former occasion were for that time only; and were not to be considered as necessary to be shewn us in future. Notwithstanding however

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all these objections, being desirous of contributing to the public undertaking in which we were engaged, he requested I would inform him of the precise number of days in which the store-ship could be unloaded; he offered to give me the key of the warehouse at the landing place, for the reception of her cargo, near which we might erect the observatory; and allowed the gentlemen and officers to recreate themselves within sight of the Spanish officer, who should be stationed for the protection of the cargo and observatory; which latter was only to be erected in the day time, as he could not permit any of our people to be on shore between sun-set and sun-rise; and lastly, he had no objection to our recruiting our wood and water, provided all those employed on that service should retire on board at night, and that I would engage that the greatest dispatch should take place in these and all our other transactions.

The situation pointed out by him, where we might be allowed to lodge such of the provisions and stores as required to be landed, was not only inconvenient on account of the surf which generally ran very high in its vicinity, but the place proposed for their reception, was in the midst of the common slaughtering of all their cattle, the neighbourhood of which, to a considerable distance in all directions, was rendered extremely offensive and unwholesome, by the offal having

never been cleared away, but left from time to time in a continual state of putrefaction. In addition to which, the stores thus deposited were to be left every night under the care of the governor's troops, without any check on the fidelity of those people, which I had some reason to believe would be very necessary. In the centre of this intolerable nuisance we had also leave to erect the observatory, and to attend to our astronomical pursuits, but *in the day time* only; and in its vicinity, and within sight of it and the Presidio, we might be allowed to recreate ourselves on shore.

On due consideration of all these circumstances, I declined any further correspondence with, or accepting the incommodious assistance proffered by Sen^r Arrillaga; and determined, after finishing our investigation of these shores, to retire to the Sandwich islands, where I had little doubt that the uneducated inhabitants of Owhyhee, or its neighbouring isles, would cheerfully afford us that accommodation which had been unkindly denied us at St. Francisco and Monterrey.

The observations made on shore by Mr. Whidbey, with the artificial horizon for ascertaining the longitude by the chronometers, allowing the presumed rate and error as settled off Scot's islands, and in Nootka found, shewed by six sets
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of observations made on two different days at St. Francisco, that Kendall's chronometer was $11' 10''$; Arnold's No. 14, $16' 48''$; and No. 176, $6' 18''$; to the westward of the truth, and by four sets of observations made on two different days at this place, Kendall's chronometer was found to be $4' 34''$, and Arnold's No. 14, $14' 13''$ to the westward; and No. 176, $15' 47''$ to the eastward of the truth. Hence it appeared that Arnold's No. 14, was going with greater regularity than any of the others.

As our situation afforded no better means of ascertaining a point of so interesting a nature, the above rate and error was of necessity adopted; subject however to correction by subsequent observations, which was accordingly done, and the longitude so corrected is affixed to all our future situations, as also to the position of the coast and adjacent islands, until our departure from New Albion.

In the forenoon of Tuesday the 5th we unmoored, and about ten at night, with a light southerly breeze, we weighed and sailed out of the bay; but the wind continuing light and variable, we made little progress until the forenoon of Wednesday the 6th, when, with the regular northerly breeze, we hauled in close to point Pinos, and there recommenced our survey of this coast south-eastward from Monterrey.

Point

Point Pinos, as already described to form the south-east point of Monterrey bay, is a low projecting point of land, covered with trees, chiefly the stone-pine. From hence the exterior coast takes a direction S. 28 W., about four miles to the north point of the bay of Carmelo, which is a small open and exposed situation, containing some detached rocks; and having a rocky bottom is a very improper place for anchorage. Into this bay flows the river Carmelo, passing the mission of St. Carlos, and at a little distance from the sea, it is said to abound with a variety of excellent fish.

In a direction about E. by S. from St. Carlos, at the distance of about 15 leagues, is the mission of St. Antonio, established in the year 1792.

From the north point of the bay of Carmelo, the coast takes a direction S. by E. four leagues, to a small, high, rocky lump of land, lying about half a mile from the shore, which is nearly barren; indeed, the trees from point Pinos extend a little way only to the southward of the bay of Carmelo, where the mountains rise rather abruptly from the sea; and the naked shores, excepting one or two sandy beaches, are intirely composed of steep rocky cliffs.

Southward from the detached lump of land, the coast, which takes a direction S. 40 E., is nearly straight and compact; the mountains form
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one uninterrupted, though rather uneven, ridge; with chasms and gullies on their sides; the whole to all appearance nearly destitute of vegetation.

In the evening we hauled our wind, and plied in order to retain our situation, for the purpose of prosecuting our researches in the morning of Thursday the 7th, when, notwithstanding that the wind was favorable to this design, yet the fog prevented my putting it into execution, and we were obliged to stand to windward all that day under an easy sail. Unpleasant weather like this had attended many of our favorable N. W. winds since our departure from port Protection, and in a manner I had not been accustomed to notice. The fog did not in general rise more than ten or twelve degrees above the horizon; above which the atmosphere was clear and pleasant, admitting us frequently to see not only the summits, but also some distance down the sides of the mountains that compose the coast. These now appeared in a double ridge; the interior ones produced forest trees, that shewed their tops above the summits of those that seemed to rise abruptly from the sea shore, the lower parts of which continued to be totally obscured by the density of the fog, until the morning of Friday the 8th, when it in some measure dispersed, and permitted us to see that part of the coast from whence we had stood to sea on the evening of the

the 6th, and enabled us to ascertain, that, southward from that station, the coast still continued in a direction S. 40 E., and was equally compact. The same wind, with a continuance of thick hazy weather, scarcely allowed us to see from point to point as we sailed along the coast, and prevented our delineating its position with that degree of accuracy and precision I could have wished; though it did not preclude our ascertaining the continuation and connexion of the continental shore, which, as we advanced, became less abrupt; and the country, composed of valleys and mountains that gradually descended towards the sea shore, which consisted of alternate rocks and sandy beaches, put on a more agreeable appearance, as vegetation again seemed to exist: some dwarf trees were produced, and the surface was interspersed with a few dull verdant spots.

About nine o'clock we passed a low projecting point, off which lie, at a small distance, two or three rugged detached rocks; the outermost is situated in latitude $35^{\circ} 42''$, longitude $239^{\circ} 6''$; from whence the line of the coast, for a short distance, inclines a few degrees more to the eastward; the mountains fall further back from the water-side, and the intermediate country appeared to be a plain, or to rise with a very gradual ascent, for the space of about four leagues along the coast. This land was tolerably well wooded,

wooded, even close down to the shore; and by the assistance of our glasses some of the trees were seen to be very large, with spreading branches; and being for the greater part distributed in detached clumps, produced a very pleasing effect, and a prospect more fertile than we had lately been accustomed to behold. This difference in the appearance of the country was not confined to inanimate nature, for its inhabitants seemed to benefit by its superior productions, as we soon discovered a canoe approaching us, of a construction I little expected to have met with. Instead of its being composed of straw like those we had seen on our first visit to port St. Francisco, it was neatly formed of wood, much after the Nootka fashion, and was navigated with great adroitness by four of the natives of the country. Their paddles were about ten feet long, with a blade at each end; these they handled with much dexterity, either intirely on one side, or alternately on each side of their canoe. Their exertions to reach us were very great, but as we were favored with a fresh gale, with all sails set, they were not able to come up with us; and I regretted that I could not afford some leisure for a better acquaintance with these people, who seemed, by the ingenuity displayed in their canoe, to differ very materially from those insensible beings we had met

met in the neighbourhood of St. Francisco and Monterrey.

Our progress by noon brought us to the latitude of $35^{\circ} 33'$, longitude $239^{\circ} 15\frac{1}{2}'$; in this situation the northernmost part of the coast in sight bore by compass N. W. by W.; a point forming the north point of the bay S. 75 E.; a high conical hill, flat at the top, appearing to be an island in the bay, S. 67 E.; the south point of the bay S. 46 E.; and the nearest shore N. 26 E., two miles distant. At the north point of this bay, which is situated in latitude $35^{\circ} 31'$, longitude $239^{\circ} 22'$, the woodland country ceases to exist, and the shores acquire a quick ascent, with a very uneven surface, particularly in the neighbourhood of the bay. Some detached rocks are about its southern point, which lies from the northern S. 25 E., distant thirteen miles, and is formed by steep cliffs, falling perpendicularly into the ocean. From the line of the two outer points the shores of the bay fell back about five miles; they appeared to be much exposed; and, unless the conical rock is connected with the shores, they did not seem to form any projecting point, but were composed of a sandy beach, that stretched from a margin of low land, extending from the rugged mountains that form the more interior country; from whence four small streams were

were seen from the mast head to flow into the bay.

This bay was the first indent in the shores to the southward of Carmelo bay, and, according to the Spanish charts, is called *Los Esteros*; the north point above mentioned is called *Ponto del Esteros*, which is placed in Sen^r Quadra's chart only two miles further south than the situation of it by our observations; but in the printed chart it is placed ten miles further south, and is represented in a different point of view from that in which it had appeared to us.

To the southward of *Ponto del Esteros*, the whole exterior country had a sterile, dreary, unpleasant aspect; yet I had understood that the Spaniards had some establishments, in fertile and pleasant situations, not far from the shores of this neighbourhood. Near the northern parts of the bay was the mission of *St. Luis*, formed in the year 1772, and about 25 leagues to the north-east of it was another named *St. Antonio*, established the same year. The precise situation of these missions may be liable to error, as the information respecting them was principally obtained from cursory conversation.

The south point of *Esteros* forms the north-west extreme of a conspicuous promontory; this takes a rounding direction about S. 36 E., eight miles, where the coast retires again to the eastward.

ward, and forms the northern side of an extensive open bay. This promontory is named in the printed chart The Mountain del Buchon, off which, at the distance of about eight leagues, I understood an island had lately been discovered, but we saw nothing of it. Our view however was very confined, occasioned by a very thick haze, sometimes approaching to a fog, which totally prevented our seeing any object further than from two to four leagues in any direction; inso-much that we stood into this bay to the southward of Mount del Buchon, without knowing it to be such, until the south point discovered itself through the haze, at the distance of about three leagues.

This not being named in the Spanish charts, I have, after our friend the commandant at St. Francisco, called it POINT SAL; and being in the line of the two points of this bay, they were found to lie from each other S. $40\frac{1}{2}$ E., and N. $40\frac{1}{2}$ W., twenty miles asunder, the nearest part of the bay bearing by compass N. E., was five or six miles distant. As the day was fast declining, we hauled our wind to preserve our situation during the night, with so strong a gale from the N. W. as obliged us to close-reef our topsails. In the morning, the weather being more moderate and the atmosphere more clear, we steered for point Sal, and had a good opportunity of seeing the

the northern shores of the bay, which like those of Esteros, seemed compact, without any projecting points that would afford shelter or security for shipping.

The interior country consisted of lofty barren mountains, in double and treble ridges, at some distance from the shore; the intermediate land descended gradually from their base, interspersed with eminences and vallies, and terminated on the coast in sandy beaches, or low white cliffs, Point Sal, which is a high steep rocky cliff, projecting from the low shore, with a country of similar appearance to the south of it, is situated in latitude $34^{\circ} 57'$, longitude $239^{\circ} 43\frac{1}{2}'$, from whence the coast takes a direction S. 4 E. nineteen miles, to another high steep rocky point projecting in the like manner, and rising very abruptly in rugged craggy cliffs. This I called POINT ARGUELLO; near it are two or three detached rocks lying close to the shore; the coast between these two points falls a little back to the eastward. The intermediate shores and interior country continued to bear the same appearance; the whole was destitute of wood, and nearly of other vegetable productions, excepting near a rivulet that we passed about nine in the forenoon, situated from point Arguello N. 12 E., at the distance of about six miles. This appeared to be the largest flow of water into the ocean we

had yet seen, excepting that of Columbia river; but the breakers that extended across its entrance, seemed to preclude the possibility of its being navigable even for boats. In the Spanish charts it is called Rio de St. Balardo.

About eleven o'clock we passed point Arguello, from whence the coast takes a direction S. 51 E., ten miles to a point of but little elevated, or rather low, land; this, according to the Spanish charts, is called point Conception, forming the north-west point of entrance into the channel of S^{ta} Barbara. Being now favored with a fresh N. W. gale, though attended with hazy weather, we were by noon abreast of this point; the observed latitude was $34^{\circ} 30'$, longitude $239^{\circ} 52'$; in this situation the easternmost part of the coast in sight bore by compass E. N. E.; point Conception being the nearest shore, N. 32 E., two or three miles distant; the northernmost part of the coast in sight, N. 48 W.; the westernmost, or first island, forming the channel of S^{ta} Barbara, called in one of the Spanish charts St. Miguel, in the other St. Barnardo, (the former of which I have adopted) bore from S. 25 E. to S. 32 E.; the next called in one of those charts S^{ta} Rosa, in the other St. Miguel, (the former of which I have continued) bore from S. 42 E. to S. 54 E.; and a high hill on the third island, called in the Spanish charts S^{ta} Cruz, bore S. 70 E.

Point

Point Conception is rendered very remarkable, by its differing very much in form from the points we had lately seen along the coast. It appeared to stretch out into the ocean from an extensive tract of low land, and to terminate like a wedge, with its large end falling perpendicularly into the sea, which broke against it with great violence. By our observations it appeared to be in latitude $34^{\circ} 32'$, longitude $239^{\circ} 54'$; the former corresponding with both the Spanish charts within two or three miles, being there placed so much further to the southward.

Immediately to the eastward of Point Conception (the coast from thence taking an eastern direction) we passed a small Indian village, the first we had observed along the shores of these southern parts of New Albion. The inhabitants made a fire the instant we came within their view, but no one ventured to pay us a visit. The prevailing strong gale at the time of our passing probably prevented their embarking.

It is not unlikely that this village was attached to the mission of S^{ta} Rosa, which I had been informed was established in the vicinity of this point in the year 1788, and had the reputation of being situated in a very fertile country. Another report had stated this mission to be near the banks of the Rio St. Balardo; and, as it is not improbable

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that

that the stream may take a southern course from its entrance, both informations may be correct.

The coast continued in this easterly direction about twenty-three miles from point Conception, to a point where it took a southerly turn, from whence the country gradually rose to mountains of different heights. In the vicinity of the shores, which are composed of low cliffs or sandy beaches, were produced some stunted trees and groveling shrubs; and notwithstanding the dreary appearance of the coast as we passed along, it seemed to be well inhabited, as several villages were seen at no great distance from each other in the small bays or coves that form the coast.

By four in the afternoon we had sailed beyond the influence of our favorable N. W. gale, which still continued to blow a little way astern of us, whilst we were perplexed with light variable winds from every quarter. With these however, we endeavoured to approach the shores of the main land, in order to anchor for the night. About sun-set we were visited by some of the inhabitants in a canoe from one of the villages. Their visit seemed to be dictated by curiosity alone, which being satisfied, as they were about to depart, I gave them some iron and beads, with which they appeared to be highly delighted, and returned to the shore.

By

By seven in the evening it was nearly calm, and having at that time soundings at the depth of 37 fathoms, muddy bottom, we anchored in company with the Chatham and Dædalus.

The surface of the sea, which was perfectly smooth and tranquil, was covered with a thick slimy substance, which, when separated, or disturbed by any little agitation, became very luminous, whilst the light breeze that came principally from the shore, brought with it a very strong smell of burning tar, or of some such resinous substance. The next morning, Sunday the 10th, the sea had the appearance of dissolved tar floating upon its surface, which covered the ocean in all directions within the limits of our view; and indicated, that in this neighbourhood it was not subject to much agitation.

From this anchorage, situated in latitude $34^{\circ} 24'$, longitude $240^{\circ} 32'$, the coast as before mentioned takes a southerly turn, S. 48 E. about two leagues to a point bearing by compass N. 81 E. half a league distant from our station; the centre of the island of St. Miguel bore from S. 27 W. distant 11 leagues; S^{ta} Rosa from S. 11 W. to S. 5 E.; the former 25, the latter 26 miles distant; the island of S^{ta} Cruz from S. 81 E. to S. 55 E.; and the main land in sight from S. 82 W. to S. 87 E.

The want of wind detaining us in this situa-

Y 3

tion

tion, afforded an opportunity to several of the natives from the different villages, which were numerous in this neighbourhood, to pay us a visit. They all came in canoes made of wood, and decorated with shells like that seen on the sth. They brought with them some fish, and a few of their ornaments; these they disposed of in the most cheerful manner, principally for spoons, beads, and scissars. They seemed to possess great sensibility, and much vivacity, yet they conducted themselves with the most perfect decorum and good order; very unlike that inanimate stupidity that marked the character of most of the Indians we had seen under the Spanish jurisdiction at St. Francisco and Monterrey. These people either did not understand the Spanish language, or spoke it in such a manner as to be unintelligible to us; for as we were totally unacquainted with their native dialect, we endeavoured, but to no effect, by means of Spanish, to gain from them some information.

On a light breeze springing up from the westward, at about eight o'clock, we directed our course along shore to the eastward; our progress was very slow, owing to light winds, though the weather was very pleasant. About two in the afternoon we passed a small bay, which appeared likely to have afforded good anchorage, had it not been for a bed of sea-weed that extended

tended across its entrance, and indicated a shallow rocky bottom.

Within this bay a very large Indian village was pleasantly situated, from whence we were visited by some of its inhabitants; amongst whom was a very shrewd intelligent fellow, who informed us, in the Spanish language, that there was a mission and a Presidio not much further to the eastward. About five in the evening this establishment was discovered in a small bay, which bore the appearance of a far more civilized place than any other of the Spanish settlements. The buildings appeared to be regular and well constructed, the walls clean and white, and the roofs of the houses were covered with a bright red tile. The Presidio was nearest to the sea shore, and just shewed itself above a grove of small trees, producing with the rest of the buildings a very picturesque effect.

As I purposed to anchor somewhere for the night, and as this bay seemed likely not only to answer that purpose, but another equally essential, that of procuring some refreshments, we hauled in, and anchored in six fathoms water, sandy bottom; the southern land in sight, called by the Spaniards Conversion point, bore by compass S. 70 E.; a low cliffy point in the bay N. 42 E.; the Presidio N. 32 W.; the nearest shore N. N. W. distant half a mile; the north-west
Y 4 point

point of the bay S. 64 W. ; the north-west extreme of the island of S^{ta} Rosa S. 34 W. distant thirty-two miles ; its western extreme was shut in with the west point of S^{ta} Cruz, which bore from S. 22 W. to S. 28 E. seventeen or eighteen miles ; the nearest part of that island S. 20 E. distant thirteen miles ; and the south-easternmost of the islands in sight S. 28 E. ; appearing from our anchorage like a single rock, but consisting of three small islands.

Having thus anchored before the Spanish establishment, I immediately sent Lieutenant Swaine to inform the commanding officer at the Presidio of our arrival, and as I intended to depart in the morning, to request that the Indians, who had shewn a great desire to trade with us, might be permitted to bring us, in the course of the night, such articles of refreshment as they had to dispose of ; which, as we understood, consisted of an abundance of hogs, vegetables, fowls, and some excellent dried fish.

Mr. Swaine returned, after meeting with a most polite and friendly reception from the commandant Sen^r Don Felipe Goycochea, who with the greatest hospitality informed Mr. Swaine, that every refreshment the country could afford was perfectly at our command ; and desired that I might be made acquainted, that he hoped I would remain a few days to partake of those advantages,

vantages, and to allow him the pleasure of administering to our wants and necessities.

On his learning from Mr. Swaine which way we were bound, he observed that wood and water would not only be found very scarce, but that a supply could not be depended upon at St. Diego, or any other port to the southward; and if it were necessary that we should replenish our stock of those articles, it would be well to embrace the opportunity which our present situation afforded for so doing.

The general deportment of this officer was evidently the effect of a noble and generous mind; and as this place, which was distinguished by the name of S^{ta} Barbara, was under the same jurisdiction as St. Francisco and Monterrey, our very friendly reception here rendered the unkind treatment we had received on our late visits at the two other establishments the more paradoxical, and was perhaps only to be referred to the different dispositions of the persons in power.

The intelligence communicated to me by Mr. Swaine, and the polite and liberal conduct we had reason to expect from the commandant, induced me to think of accepting the advantages he had so obligingly offered.

The next morning, accompanied by Lieutenants Puget and Hanson, I paid my respects on shore to Sen^r Don Felipe Goycochea, the commandant

mandant of the establishment of S^{ta} Barbara, and Lieutenant in the Spanish infantry. He received us with the greatest politeness and cordiality, and renewed, with great earnestness, the offers he had made to Mr. Swaine the preceding evening. He was pleased to say, that he should derive the greatest satisfaction in rendering us every service compatible with the orders under which he acted. These orders only required, that those who were employed for the service of the vessels on shore, or engaged in taking their recreation in the neighbouring country, should return on board every night. This stipulation I assured him should be punctually attended to, as well as every other regulation that his prudence might suggest.

We were likewise introduced to Friar Miguel Miguel, one of the reverend fathers of the mission of S^{ta} Barbara, who, in the name of himself, and his companion the Rev. Father Estevan Tapis, expressed the greatest anxiety for our welfare; and repeating the civilities of the commandant, offered whatever services or assistance the mission could afford.

Accompanied by these gentlemen we went from the Presidio, in order to ascertain the spot from whence we were to obtain our wood and water. As the former was to be procured from the holly-leaved oak that grew at some distance from the water-side, our reverend father offered

us the waggons of the mission, and some Indians to carry the wood, when cut, down to the beach. The cart of the Presidio was directed by the commandant to be at our orders for that or any other service. The water, which was not of the best quality, was in wells close to the sea shore. We were in no imminent want of these necessaries; yet, from the experience of our late retarded progress from light baffling winds, in consequence of the coast taking so easterly a direction, and obstructing the general course of the north-west winds that prevail most part of the year, it was highly probable we might find the same sort of weather further south, as we must necessarily keep near the shore, for the purpose of examining the coast, which I now found would occupy more time than I had supposed. This circumstance, in addition to the information we had received, that the further we advanced the worse we should fare in respect of these essential articles; I thought it prudent, notwithstanding the business appeared likely to be somewhat tedious, to give orders for its being immediately carried into execution; convinced that we should greatly benefit in point of health whilst these services were going forward, by the excellent refreshments the country promised to supply.

The commandant had ordered us to be furnished with fresh meat in such quantities as I might

might think proper to demand; vegetables and fowls were principally purchased from private individuals, whilst our reverend fathers at the mission, and the commandant, shared the productions of their gardens with us; which, like those of the more northern establishments, were but of small extent.

Since the recreation that had been denied us at Monterrey was here granted without limitation, I felt myself bound to adopt such measures as were most likely to prevent any abuse of the indulgence, or any just cause of complaint. For when I reflected on the unrestrained manner in which most of the officers and gentlemen had rambled about the country, during our former visit at Monterrey, I was not without my suspicions that the unpleasant restrictions imposed upon us on our late return to that port, had been occasioned by our having made too free with the liberty then granted. To prevent the chance of any such offence taking place here, I issued positive injunctions that no individual under my command should extend his excursions beyond the view from the Presidio, or the buildings of the mission, which, being situated in an open country of no very uneven surface, admitted of sufficient space for all the exercise on foot or horseback that health or amusement might require.

Notwithstanding the water on the beach was
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the same as that with which all the Spanish vessels that had visited this roadstead had been supplied, and although much pains had been taken to clean out the wells, yet they were very dirty and brackish; and as they afforded a very scanty supply, we were induced to make search for better water.

At the distance of only a few yards further than where the wells had been made, a most excellent spring of very fine water was discovered, amongst some bushes, in a kind of morafs; and though it flowed but slowly, yet it answered all our purposes, and was obtained with more ease than the water from the wells. This spring was totally unknown to the resident Spaniards, and equally so, I presume, to those employed in their shipping; or they would not so long have been content with the dirty brackish water procured from the wells. At the Presidio is a large well of excellent water, from which also, by the assistance of the cart, a portion of our stock was obtained.

Our business being thus in a train for easy execution, the agreeable society of our Spanish friends, the refreshments we procured, and the daily recreation which the country afforded, rendered our situation at S^{ta} Barbara extremely pleasant.

We here procured some stout knees from the holly-leaved oak, for the security of the Discovery's

very's head and bumkins; this, and our other occupations, fully engaged our time until the evening of Sunday the 17th, when preparations were made for sailing on the day following.

The pleasing society of our good friends at the mission and Presidio was this day augmented by the arrival of Friar Vincente S^{ta} Maria, one of the Rev. Fathers of the mission of Bueno Ventura; situated about seven leagues from hence on the sea coast to the south-eastward.

The motives that induced this respectable priest to favor us with his company, evidently manifested his christian-like benevolence. Having crossed the ocean more than once himself, he was well aware how valuable the fresh productions of the shores were to persons in our situation; under this impression he had brought with him, for our service, half a score sheep, and twenty mules laden with the various roots and vegetables from the garden of his mission. This excellently-good man earnestly intreated that I would accompany him by land back to Bueno Ventura; saying, that I should be better able on the spot to point out to him, and to his colleague the Rev. Friar Father Francisco Dume, such of the productions of the country as would be most acceptable, and contribute most to our future comfort and welfare. Of this journey I should have been very happy to have been able to have availed myself,
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had the existing circumstances not obliged me to decline the pleasure I should thereby have received.

Our new benevolent friend, accompanied by the commandant and Father Miguel, honored us with their company to dine on board, where, in the course of conversation, I was informed that the mission of Bueno Ventura was situated near a small bay of easy access; and as Friar Vincente seemed much pleased with his visit on board, I requested he would favor me with his company in the Discovery to his residence. This offer he cheerfully accepted, and in doing so I had only reason to regret the short time I was to be indulged with the society of a gentleman, whose observations through life, and general knowledge of mankind, rendered him a most pleasing and instructive companion.

In the evening our friends returned on shore, and I took that opportunity of soliciting their acceptance of a few useful articles which they had no other opportunity of obtaining; though I must confess they were a very incompetent return for their friendly, generous, and attentive services; and I trust they will accept this public acknowledgment as the only means within my reach to shew the grateful sense I shall ever entertain of the obligations they so liberally and unexpectedly bestowed.

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We were attended at breakfast the next morning, Monday the 18th, with our friends from the shore; and the want of wind detained us at anchor until near noon; when we took leave of our S^{ta} Barbara friends, and, accompanied by Father Vincente, we directed our course towards Bueno Ventura.

Whilst we remained at S^{ta} Barbara, Mr. Whidbey, whose time was principally devoted to the several duties on shore, embraced that opportunity of making some necessary astronomical observations with the artificial horizon; the only means we had of ascertaining the latitude, variation, and the longitude by the chronometers. The mean results shewed the latitude, by four meridional altitudes of the sun, to be $34^{\circ} 24'$; the variation, by six sets of azimuths, differing from $11^{\circ} 14'$ to 9° , to be $10^{\circ} 15'$ eastwardly; and the longitude, by eight sets of altitudes of the sun between the 11th and 15th, allowing the error and rate as calculated at Monterrey, was shewn by Kendall's chronometer to be $240^{\circ} 45' 40''$; Arnold's No. 14, $240^{\circ} 44' 16''$; No. 176, $240^{\circ} 56' 45''$; and the true longitude deduced from subsequent observations, $240^{\circ} 43'$. As I continued to allow the same rate, the situation of the coast has been laid down by No. 14; and I should hope, by the regularity with which it had lately gone, with some degree of precision.

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The tide, though shewing here no visible stream; regularly ebb'd and flow'd every six hours; the rise and fall, as nearly as could be estimated, seem'd to be about three or four feet; and it is high water about eight hours after the moon pass'd the meridian.

To sail into the bay, or more properly speaking the roadstead, of S^{ta} Barbara, requires but few directions, as it is open and without any kind of interruption whatever; the soundings on approaching it are regular, from 15 to 3 fathoms; the former from half a league to two miles, the latter within a cable and half of the shore. Weeds were seen growing about the roadstead in many places; but, so far as we examined, which was only in the vicinity of our anchorage, they did not appear to indicate shallower water, or a bottom of a different nature. The shores of the roadstead are for the most part low, and terminate in sandy beaches, to which however its western point is rather an exception, being a steep cliff moderately elevated; to this point I gave the name of POINT FELIPE, after the commandant of S^{ta} Barbara.

The interior country a few miles only from the water side, is compos'd of rugged barren mountains, which I was inform'd rise in five distinct ridges, behind and above each other, a great distance inland towards the E. N. E.; which

space is not at present occupied either by the Spaniards, or the native Indians.

After we had passed point Conception, the wind continued to blow in very faint breezes, and our progress was slow along the coast, which rose about two or three leagues to the south-eastward of S^{ta} Barbara with a steep ascent in rocky cliffs, that mostly composed its shores.

At eight in the evening we anchored in fifteen fathoms water, about a league to the westward of Buena Ventura. Our reverend friend expressed great satisfaction at the mode of his return to the mission; and said, that his voyage hither would probably lay the foundation for removing the absurd and deep-rooted prejudice that had ever existed amongst the several tribes of Indians in his neighbourhood, who from their earliest infancy had invariably regarded all strangers as their enemies. This sentiment had totally prevented any amicable intercourse, or communication between their different societies, although living within a small distance of each other. And it seemed to have been a matter of no small difficulty on the part of the missionaries, to persuade the native inhabitants of the channel of S^{ta} Barbara, who had been informed of our intention to visit the coast, that we were their friends, and should treat them with kindness and civility; having probably been taught at some earlier period,

riod, to consider the English under a very different character. Proofs were not wanting that such notions still continued to exist, for notwithstanding that four or five favorite Indian servants, who attended on father Vincente, had witnessed the cordial reception and friendly intercourse that subsisted between us, yet on his giving them directions to return home with his horses and mules by themselves, as he should go thither in the ship, they instantly, and with one voice, prayed for the sake of God that he would not persist in his determination; being thoroughly convinced that if he did they should never see him more: nor was it in the power of language, either by arguments or assurances, to remove these ill founded impressions. To the last moment they remained with him on the beach, supplicating in the most earnest manner that he would give his attention to their advice; and frequently repeating, that though they had hitherto confided in every thing he had told them, yet in this instance they were sure they should be deceived. The Rev. Father, though gratified by their affectionate anxiety, smiled at their groundless apprehensions for his safety, gave each of them his blessing, and again directed them to follow his orders and return home to Buena Ventura

We found our situation on the succeeding
Z 2 morning,

morning, Tuesday the 19th, to be within about two miles of the shore, its nearest part bearing by compass N. by E., the landing-place near the mission of Buena Ventura, S. 68 E., three miles distant; point Conversion S. 62 E.; a group of three islands, called by the natives Enneepah, (the westernmost being the largest and highest island) from S. 10 E. to S. 1 E.; the island of S^{ta} Cruz, from S. 23 W., to S. 48 W.; and point Felipe, N. 68 W.

The coast immediately opposite, and to the northward of us, chiefly consisted of high steep cliffs, indented with some small sandy coves. The general face of the country was mountainous, rugged, barren, and dreary; but towards the mission, a margin of low land extended from the base of the mountains, some of which were of great height, and at a remote distance from the ocean; and being relieved by a few trees in the neighbourhood of the establishment, gave this part of the country a less unpleasing appearance.

Having taken an early breakfast, I attended Father Vincente to the shore, where a large assortment of refreshments was in readiness for embarkation. The violence of the surf prevented our landing, nor was it without the greatest caution and circumspection that the Indians, though very dexterous in the management of their canoes, could venture off to us. From these people
I under-

I understood, that this inconvenience was unusual, and that about noon, or towards the evening, it would probably subside, so as to permit our landing. We therefore determined to wait, and in the mean time the canoes brought off some of the good things which our reverend friend had ordered to be provided, consisting of sheep, fowls, roots, and other vegetables in such abundance, that it required four boats to convey them to the ships.

In this situation we waited at a grapnel until the afternoon; when finding the surf not sufficiently abated to admit of our landing in perfect safety, and my reverend friend not having sufficient courage to venture on shore in any of the canoes, after several had been filled and overset, we returned on board; not a little mortified at the disappointment, which seemed to damp the spirits and lively conversation of our worthy guest. When about half way to the ship, the uneasiness of Father Vincente was greatly increased by his recollecting, that he had intrusted both his bible and prayer book to the care of a faithful servant, with the strongest injunctions to deposit them securely on shore; this service had been punctually performed; for on our return, these spiritual comforts, with which he had too hastily parted, had been forgotten to be recalled. The omission produced no small addition to the dejection of

spirits that had already taken place, and which became almost insupportable by an untoward accident, that for a moment presented a situation of danger, until it was discovered to proceed from the plug having unfortunately worked out of the boat's bottom, by which means a great quantity of water was received, and kept increasing until the cause was found out and removed; when the effect instantly ceased, and the boat was soon relieved. Yet this accident, amidst other misfortunes and disappointments, appeared to the good priest a matter of the most serious concern, and might perhaps be a little aggravated by some smiles at his distress, which it was impossible to suppress.

Our excellent friend was now so much disconcerted, and his spirits so depressed, that I found it as difficult to convince him that we should arrive safe at the ship, as he had before found it to persuade his trusty servants of his security in embarking with us at S^{ra} Barbara; and I verily believe that at this moment he heartily repented that he had not yielded to their advice.

We were however soon alongside, and our friend was by no means reluctant to leave the boat; when on board the ship he soon recovered from his former apprehensions of danger, yet the absence of his books was still a matter of regret and vexation that he could not overcome; and
unfortunately

unfortunately it was out of our power to afford him any consolation, as those we had on board were in a language he did not understand. His servants being aware of the uneasiness which the want of these religious comforts would occasion their master, came on board in the evening with the bible and prayer-book, without either of them having been wetted by the waters of the ocean, to preserve them against which had been an object of much care and attention. The very great comfort this circumstance imparted was too evident in the countenance of our worthy friend to pass unnoticed. He immediately retired, and after having been closeted about three quarters of an hour, he returned to supper, and was as cheerful, and in the same high spirits, as before these uncomfortable events had happened. I then took an opportunity of apologizing for our smiles in the boat, and I believe we obtained perfect forgiveness, as he laughed heartily at the adventures of the day, and the evening passed in the most cheerful manner.

Such are the happy effects resulting from a religious education, and such the consolations that are derived by the habitual exercise of the principles it inculcates.

Whilst deprived of those comforts to which in the hour of peril or misfortune he had been taught to resort, I am convinced the mind of

our friend was far from being in an enviable state; but when the opportunity was afforded him of conscientiously discharging the sacred duties which he felt it incumbent upon him to perform, I believe there were few in the world with whom he would have wished to have changed conditions.

The next morning, Wednesday the 20th, we had an early visit from some of the Indians, who came to inform Father Vincente that the surf was intirely abated, and that he might land in the most perfect security. His anxiety to get on shore induced me to lose no time in making another attempt, leaving directions, in the event of our being able to land, for the vessels to proceed along the coast as soon as the sea breeze should set in, where I would join them off the mission.

When we reached the shore the surf still ran very high, but with the assistance of our light small boat we landed with great ease, perfectly dry, and much to the satisfaction of our worthy companion; of whose bounty there was yet remaining near the beach a large quantity of roots, vegetables, and other useful articles, with five head of cattle, in readiness to be sent on board. One of these being a very fine young bull was taken on board alive, for the purpose of being carried if possible to Owhyhee. The others were
killed,

killed, and produced us an ample supply; had they not been sufficient, a greater number were at hand, and equally at our disposal.

Our hospitable friend now conducted us towards the establishment, which was situated about three quarters of a mile from the water-side; from whence we had not advanced many paces before the road became crowded with Indians of both sexes, and of all ages, running towards us. This assemblage I at first attributed to curiosity, and the desire of seeing strangers, but I was soon agreeably undeceived, and convinced that it was not to welcome us, but the return of their pastor and benefactor. Although it was yet very early in the morning, the happy tidings had reached the mission; from whence these children of nature had issued, each pressing through the crowd, unmindful of the feeble or the young, to kiss the hand of their paternal guardian, and to receive his benediction. His blessings being dispensed, the little multitude dispersed in various directions.

With us, as strangers, their curiosity was very soon satisfied, a few only accompanying us to the mission. These made many inquiries of Father Vincente how he had fared, and how he had been treated on board the ship; to all which his answers were returned in such pleasing terms of kind familiarity, as apparently afforded them
great

great satisfaction, whilst it produced in them much surprize. This conversation we were only able to understand through his interpretation, as it was held in the Indian language, which Father Vincente spoke very fluently.

On our entering the mission we were received by Father Francisco Dume, and entertained in a manner that proved the great respectability of the Franciscan order, at least of that part of their numerous community with whom we had become acquainted.

The morning, which was most delightfully pleasant, was employed in viewing the buildings of the mission, the arrangement of the gardens, and cultivated land in its immediate vicinage. These all appeared to be in a very superior stile to any of the new settlements I had yet seen, and would have tempted me to have made a more minute inquiry, had not my anxious desire for proceeding onward prohibited the delay it would necessarily have occasioned.

The day passed most agreeably in the society of our ecclesiastical friends; and the pleasure of it was greatly heightened by the arrival of a mail from Europe in its way to Monterrey. By this conveyance our reverend friends had intelligence from the old world, that could not fail of being very interesting to persons in our situation. Thus we concluded a very pleasant day, and in the evening

evening returned to the vessels, which had been prevented moving by the calmness of the weather.

On attempting to weigh with a gentle breeze of wind from the westward on the morning of Thursday the 21st, the tenacity of the bottom proved too strong for our cable, and it parted near the clench. This accident kept us employed the whole of the day; and after breaking all the best hawsers we had then remaining, the anchor was at length recovered by sweeping it with the stream cable late in the evening. This unlooked-for detention was highly mortifying, as the westerly breeze blew a cheerful gale from day-light until dark, for the first time since we had entered the channel of S^{ta} Barbara.

With light baffling winds from the north-east quarter, and some slight showers of rain, we directed our course on the morning of Friday the 22d to the south-eastward, gratefully thankful for the hospitable reception and benevolent donations of our religious friends at Buena Ventura.

The anchorage we had just quitted, was according to our observations by two meridional altitudes of the sun, in latitude $34^{\circ} 10'$; and the longitude by six sets of altitudes, on two different days, was $241^{\circ} 2'$. In consequence of the general serenity of the weather almost throughout the year, according to the information I obtained, the roadstead may be considered as a tolerably

lerably good one, and anchorage may be had nearer the shore in the vicinity of the mission; but neither situations are so commodious as at S^{ta} Barbara, being much more exposed to the south-east winds and oceanic swell, which frequently render the communication with the shore very unpleasant.

At noon our observed latitude was $34^{\circ} 10'$, longitude $241^{\circ} 4'$. In this situation the isles of Ennecepah bore by compass from N. 4 E. to S. 20 W.; the island of S^{ta} Cruz, from S. 36 W. to S. 61 W.; the westernmost part of the main land in sight, W. N. W., the nearest shore N. E. by N., four or five miles distant, point Conversion, N. 84 E., and the southernmost land in sight, S. 85 E.

* Point Conversion was passed in the afternoon, and found to be situated in latitude $34^{\circ} 9'$, longitude $241^{\circ} 9'$. The shores from Buena Ventura, which as far as this point continued low and flat, produced some small trees and shrubs; but from hence they again assumed a steep and rugged form.

From our anchorage this morning, as we advanced towards the shore to the south-east of the mission, our depth of water regularly decreased to eight fathoms, within two miles of the shore of the main land; but by noon it had increased to 14, and by five in the afternoon to 46 fathoms.

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At this time the westernmost part of the main land in sight bore by compass N. 55 W. ; point Conversion, N. 45 W. ; the easternmost part of the main land in sight N. 65 E. ; and the isles of Enneceapah from S. 63 W. to west. On passing these isles we were nearer to them than to any other of the islands in the channel S^{ta} Barbara ; the whole of which wore the same barren appearance, and were now seen as we passed to be composed of rugged rocks, nearly destitute of wood and verdure. The westernmost, already stated to be the largest, is about a league in length from north to south, and about two miles in breadth ; its centre is situated in latitude $34^{\circ} 1\frac{1}{2}'$, longitude $240^{\circ} 56\frac{1}{2}'$. The easternmost of these isles, about two miles in circuit, lies from the above N. 80 E., at the distance of about a league, and the south-east point of the island of S^{ta} Cruz lies from the same station S. 80 W., distant four miles and an half.

The night was nearly calm as was the succeeding day, Saturday the 23d, so that in twenty-four hours we had not advanced more than about sixteen miles along the coast, nor was our progress much accelerated afterwards ; for by noon of Sunday the 24th, we had only reached the latitude of $33^{\circ} 54'$, longitude $241^{\circ} 42'$. In this situation point Conversion was still in sight, bearing by compass N. 71 W. ; here the coast took
a direction

a direction S. 67 E., sixteen miles to the north point of a deep bay, off which lie two or three small rocks; this point, which I called POINT DUME, bore N. 59 W.; the fourth point of the same bay, being the easternmost part of the main land in sight S. 67 E.; this being a very conspicuous promontory, I named after Father Vincente; the island S^{ta} Catalina, (so called by the Spaniards) the easternmost of the group, forming the channel of S^{ta} Barbara, from S. 40 E. to S. 19 E.; a small island, called by the Spaniards S^{ta} Barbara, S. 25 W., distant 12 leagues; and the isles of Ennecepah west, at the same distance. Our situation was before an extensive bay, at the distance of about three leagues from its nearest shores. These appeared to be compact, and the whole bay to be open and exposed; but our distance from its termination, or bottom, which was nearly four leagues, was too great to ascertain any thing respecting it with certainty; and the light prevailing wind, blowing directly on the shore, would not admit of a more minute survey without much retarding our progress along the coast, which had already occupied more time than I wished, or could well spare for its examination; and which on our departure from Monterrey I had expected would ere now have been drawing nearly to a conclusion.

The north-west side of this bay was observed
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to be composed chiefly of steep barren cliffs; the north and eastern shores terminated in low sandy beaches, rising with a gradual ascent until they reached the base of a mountainous country, which had the appearance of being rugged and barren, not only at some distance behind the centre of the bay, but extending towards the sea coast, and forming its extreme points, viz. point Vincente, and point Dume; which lie from each other S. 51 E., and N. 51 W., 26 miles asunder.

According to the Spanish charts, I at first supposed this bay to be that which is there called the bay of St. Pedro; but I was afterwards informed that conjecture was ill founded. I had also been given to understand that a very advantageous settlement is established on a fertile spot somewhere in this neighbourhood within sight of the ocean, though at the distance of some miles from the coast, called Pueblo de los Angeles, "the country town of the Angels," formed in the year 1781. This establishment was looked for in all directions, but nothing was perceived that indicated either habitations or inhabitants.

In the evening we passed point Vincente, composed of steep barren cliffs, and forming the north-west extremity of a conspicuous promontory that takes a direction S. 70 E., near ten miles, to a point in latitude $33^{\circ} 42\frac{1}{2}'$, longitude $242^{\circ} 3'$. This point, which after the father president

dent of the Franciscan order I called POINT FERMIN, is the west point of the bay, from whence its western shores take a northerly direction, and constitute a projecting promontory between two bays, the shores of which terminate on all sides in steep cliffs of a light yellowish colour. These extend along the north-western shore of the supposed bay of St. Pedro about a league, where they seemed to end, having a small island lying off their northern extremity, beyond which the bay appeared to retire to the north-westward, probably affording anchorage and shelter; but near point Fermin soundings could not be gained with 90 or 100 fathoms of line, or I would have stopped to have given this bay a more minute examination.

At day-light in the morning of Monday 25th, we found ourselves driven much further from the land than I had expected, and entirely past the bay to the south-eastward; the northern and eastern sides of it were now seen to be composed of a low country, terminating in alternate low white cliffs and sandy beaches. On this low extensive tract some small trees and shrubs were produced, but the interior country, which still consisted of rugged lofty mountains, presented a dreary and sterile appearance.

At noon the latitude was $33^{\circ} 36'$, longitude $242^{\circ} 11'$. In this situation the easternmost land
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in sight bore by compass S. 83. E.; the south-east point of the island Sth Catalina S. 13 W., distant $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles; its north point S. 48 W., distant 14 miles; and its north-west point S. 62 W., 23 miles; point Vincente N. 67 W., and point Fermin N. 59 W. In the latitude of this point we differed some miles from that assigned to it by the Spaniards; Sen^r Quadra's chart placing it in latitude $33^{\circ} 50'$, and the printed chart in latitude $33^{\circ} 54'$.

This situation would equally well correspond with the description of the bay of St. Pedro, as that we had been off the preceding day; yet, from the shape, appearance, and other circumstances attending the bay now before us, I had reason to conclude this to be the bay of St. Pedro.

Towards its south-east part is a small bay or cove, and a low point of land forming its east point, called by me POINT LASUEN, bore by compass at noon, N. 40 E., distant seven miles. In the neighbourhood of that station I had been informed was the mission of St. Gabriel, founded in the year 1773; this establishment is said to be in sight also of the sea, but we were not able to discern it, or the Pueblo de los Angeles; yet had great reason to believe that their respective situations corresponded with the intelligence I had received.

The wind continuing light and variable, rendered our progress still excessively slow; by the evening, however, I considered that we had reached the south-east extremity of the channel of S^{ta} Barbara, having sight of the island of St. Clement, (so called by the Spaniards) and which we found to lie S. 18 W., distant about five or six leagues from the south-east point of the island of S^{ta} Catalina.

Thus finished our tedious examination of the continental shore of this channel; and although we were able nearly to ascertain the positive, as well as relative, situation of the different islands forming its south-west side, yet we passed at too great a distance for the delineation of those shores with that degree of accuracy, that may be depended upon with confidence.

There are some rocks and shoals introduced in the Spanish charts which we saw nothing of; and, excepting the very light and baffling winds that prevailed, there were neither currents nor any other obstruction, so far as our examination went, to interrupt its navigation; which, to those who may have occasion *only to pass through it*, will be found neither difficult nor unpleasant.

Early the next morning, Tuesday 26th, we were favored with a light breeze from the westward; with this we steered along the land, and by 9 in the forenoon, being within about 2 miles of the shore,

our

our attention was suddenly called to a Spanish establishment erected close to the water-side, in a small sandy cove, near the centre of which was a little detached rock, and another lying off its north point. The former is represented in the Spanish charts as a small island lying nearly three miles from the shore, yet we passed it within half that distance, and could scarcely discern that it was detached. Its appearance, and situation relative to the mission of St. Juan Capistrano, corresponding with the description I had received of that settlement, made me conclude it to be the same, and that it is the last establishment between S^{ta} Barbara and the Presidio of St. Diego.

This mission is very pleasantly situated in a grove of trees, whose luxuriant and diversified foliage, when contrasted with the adjacent shores, gave it a most romantic appearance; having the ocean in front, and being bounded on its other sides by rugged dreary mountains, where the vegetation was not sufficient to hide the naked rocks, of which the country in this point of view seemed to be principally composed.

The buildings of the mission were of brick and of stone, and in their vicinity the soil appeared to be of uncommon and striking fertility. It was founded in the year 1776, and is in latitude 33° 29', longitude 242° 35'. The landing on the beach in the cove seemed to be good; and had

it not been for the very favorable gale with which we were now indulged, I should have been tempted to have passed a few hours at this very enchanting place.

The observed latitude, at noon, was $33^{\circ} 23'$, longitude $242^{\circ} 41'$. The easternmost land in sight bore by compass S. 70 E. ; the nearest shore N. 12 E., distant three miles ; the mission of St. Juan Capistrano N. 40 W. ; and the westernmost land in sight N. 49 W. From the cove of this mission the coast takes first a direction S. 45 E., 7 leagues, and then S. 16 E., 26 miles, to a point in latitude $32^{\circ} 51'$, longitude $242^{\circ} 59'$, forming the north point of the bay in which is situated Puerto Falso ; the shores between this point and the above cove are in general straight, and entirely compact. The face of the country here assumed a more uniform appearance, and rose from the sea coast, which chiefly consisted of sandy beaches or low cliffs, with a gradual ascent. It was broken into some chasms and valleys, where a few small trees and shrubs in two or three places were seen to vegetate.

We plied as usual during the night with a light breeze from the E. S. E., having in and about the bay soundings from 65 to 23 fathoms, mud and sandy bottom. The land wind blew a moderate breeze on the morning of Wednesday the 27th, with which we stood to the southward
along

along shore; but the weather was so excessively hazy as to prevent our seeing about us until after eight o'clock, when we discovered ourselves to be near the south-west point of entrance into port St. Diego, called by the Spaniards *Punta de la Loma*, bearing by compass S. 57 E. distant three or four miles; the northernmost of some small islands, named by the Spaniards the *Coronados*, S. 15 E. and the *Lagoon*, that is to say, *Puerto Falso*, N. N. E. four miles distant. Point Loma is the southern extremity of a remarkable range of elevated land, that commences from the south side of *Puerto Falso*, and at a distance has the appearance of being insular, which effect is produced by the low country that connects it with the other mountains. The top of this tract of land seems to terminate in a ridge, so perfect and uniformly sharp, as apparently to render walking very inconvenient. The fact, however, is not so; but when viewed from sea, it has that singular appearance. It descends in very steep rocky cliffs to the water side, from whence a bed of growing weeds extends into the ocean, half a league, or two miles.

The land wind died away as noon approached, and was succeeded by a gentle breeze from the N. W. with which we steered towards point Loma, through a continuation of the bed of weeds, extending in a south-westerly direction

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from that point, whence lie some breakers at the distance of a mile. Our soundings on first entering the weeds were 20 fathoms; this depth gradually, though not very regularly, decreased to six fathoms as we passed within about a mile of the southern part of the breakers; then deepened again to nine fathoms, and so continued until we entered the channel leading into port St. Diego, across which is a bar. This we passed in three fathoms and a half water, and, favored with the assistance of the flood tide, we turned into the port; where, about two in the afternoon, we anchored in ten fathoms water, fine sandy bottom, at the usual place of anchorage in the harbour. Point de la Loma, in a line with the south-easternmost of the Coronados, bore by compass S. 8 E.; punta de Guiranos, a low spit of land, projecting from the high steep cliffs within the former, and which, properly speaking, constitutes the west point of entrance into the port, S. 18 E.; the east point of entrance, which is also very low, but not a spit of land, bore S. 36 E.; the former distant about a mile, the latter about three fourths of that distance. The Presidio of St. Diego bore N. 21 E. distant three miles and a half, and the nearest shore north-west, within a quarter of a mile of our anchorage.

Having taken this station without having seen,

or

or been visited by, any of his Catholic Majesty's subjects, I dispatched Lieutenant Swaine immediately up the harbour to the Presidio, in order to inform the commanding officer of our arrival; and to inquire if any dispatches for me had been entrusted to his care, or if he knew of any that had passed this station on their way to Monterrey; as St. Diego is invariably the stopping place of the post passing from New Spain to their northern establishments on this coast. Mr. Swaine was likewise directed to inquire, whether the officer so commanding would do me the favor of forwarding such dispatches as I might find necessary to transmit to England.

During the absence of Mr. Swaine I received a very polite letter from Sen' Antonio Grajero, a lieutenant in the Spanish cavalry, and commandant of this port and establishment, requesting to be informed of the business that had brought our little squadron within the limits of his command.

Mr. Swaine returned soon afterwards, and acquainted me that he had been received with marks of great politeness and hospitality by the commanding officer, who informed him, that he had neither seen nor heard of any letters or other dispatches addressed to me; but that he would with great pleasure take charge of, and forward

to Europe, any thing of that nature which I might have occasion to transmit. He very obligingly assured Mr. Swaine, that such refreshments as the country afforded were perfectly at our command, and that it would be his study to shew us every civility within the line prescribed by the orders under which he acted; but was sorry to observe, that these would reduce his power of rendering us service, much within the limits of his inclination.

So polite and friendly a reception could not fail being extremely acceptable, and after making a satisfactory reply to the letter I had received from Sen^r Grajero, I intimated my intention of paying him my respects on the following morning.

This visit accordingly took place, accompanied by Lieutenants Puget and Hanson. On landing we found horses in waiting for us, on which we rode up to the Presidio, where we were received with that politeness and hospitality we had reason to expect from the liberal behaviour of the commandant on the preceding evening. His friendly offers were immediately renewed, and were accompanied by similar assurances of assistance from Sen^r Don Jose Zuniga, the former commandant, who had recently been promoted to the rank of captain of infantry, and appointed
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to the charge of an important post on the opposite side of the gulph of California, for which place he was then preparing to depart.

These gentlemen informed us, that having been given to understand it was my intention to visit this port they had long expected us, and that about four days before, on being informed of the probability of our arrival, they had, to their great mortification, received at the same time from Sen^r Arrillaga such a list of restrictions as would inevitably deprive both parties of that satisfaction that could not otherways have failed to render our stay here very pleasant. These orders prohibited our transacting any business on shore, excepting that of procuring wood and water; particularly directed that the store-ship should not be unladen at St. Diego; and expressed, that when the above supplies were furnished, which was to be done with all possible expedition, it was expected that we should immediately depart. We were also prohibited from taking on board any live cattle or sheep, with many other severe and inhospitable injunctions.

Notwithstanding these very ungenerous directions, our friends here desired that I would not abstain from demanding such refreshments as the country afforded; as their services should be at our command in every respect, and on all occasions, where they could possibly exert themselves,
and

and appear to keep within the limits of the orders by which, although contrary to their own inclinations, they were now compelled to govern their conduct.

The charts of our summer's survey we had no opportunity of copying whilst at sea, with a sufficient degree of accuracy; this business, therefore, fully occupied our time until Friday the 6th of December, without any circumstance occurring in this interval worthy of recording. When these were completed, I confided them, together with due information of the progress of our voyage up to this period to the care of Sen^r Don Antonio Grajero, contained in two packets addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty; as also a packet for Sen^r Quadra, at St. Blas, containing, agreeably to my promise, a copy of our discoveries during the last season, for the service and information of his Catholic Majesty. These the commandant very obligingly took care of, and gave me every assurance that they should be forwarded with the greatest punctuality and dispatch.

The wind coming from the south prevented our sailing on Saturday the 7th, as I intended; but I did not regret the detention, as it afforded us the pleasure of a visit from our very highly esteemed and venerable friend the Father president of the missionaries of the Franciscan order in this country, who was then on a visitation to
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the several missions between St. Francisco and this port, where he had arrived the preceding evening from St. Juan Capistrano. He expressed much concern that our departure was so near at hand, since the great fertility of St. Juan's would have enabled him to add abundantly to our stock of refreshments. Although I was not less thankful for these offices of kindness than convinced of the sincerity with which they were made, yet I was under the necessity of declining them, having now determined to embrace the earliest opportunity of proceeding on our survey.

I had great difficulty to prevail on the father president to desist from sending to St. Juan's for the supplies he had proposed, as in all probability we should have failed before they could have arrived from thence.

The enjoyment of the society of this worthy character was of short duration; it however afforded me the satisfaction of personally acknowledging the obligations we were under for the friendly services that had been conferred upon us, by the missionaries under his immediate direction and government; being perfectly assured, that however well disposed the several individuals might have been to have shewn us the kind attention we had received, the cordial interest with which the father president had, on all occasions, so warmly espoused our interests, must have been
of

of no small importance to our comfort. This consideration, in addition to the esteem I had conceived for his character, induced me to solicit his acceptance of a handsome barrelled organ, which, notwithstanding the vicissitudes of climate, was still in complete order and repair. This was received with great pleasure, and abundant thanks, and was to be appropriated to the use and ornament of the new church at the presidency of the missions at St. Carlos.

A continuation of southerly winds caused us to be detained, contrary to my expectations, until Monday the 9th, when we quitted the port of St. Diego. I felt myself greatly indebted for the hospitable attentions shewn us by our friends at the mission, as well as by those at the Presidio of St. Diego, for which, after making the most grateful acknowledgments I could express, I requested they would accept a few useful and necessary articles that they were not likely to procure through any other channel; and I had the gratification of seeing they were thankfully received.

Although we did not make any survey of the port of St. Diego, it may not be improper to state a few particulars relative to it, that came under our observation during the time we were there stationary. The mission of St. Diego is not within sight of the sea, nor of the port; it is
situated

fituated in a valley within the view of, and about two miles distant from, the Presidio to the north-east; which was the only building seen from our anchorage.

The sharp ridge of land, mentioned on the 27th of the preceding month, is connected with the other mountains by an isthmus, or tract of very low land, which in the rainy season is flooded, and at high spring tides makes the sharp land, forming the west and north-west side of the port, an island. The Presidio is on the continental side of this low sandy isthmus. The peninsula bears a very different appearance when seen from the port, from that before described as observed from the ocean. It descends with an uneven surface, and some bushes grow on it, but no trees of a large size.

From the Presidio, south-eastward, the eastern side of the port is bounded by high land as far as its head, from whence a narrow tract of low land projects, covered with bushes, and forming the inner or upper harbour of the port; its north-west extremity was the eastern shore under which we anchored, and to which station we had been principally directed by a plan of the port published by Mr. Dalrymple in the year 1782. This plan in point of correctness is justly intitled to much praise, but was yet capable, as far as came under my observation, of the following

ing little improvements. The scale representing five nautical miles should only subtend three miles and a half; the shoals of Barros de Zooniga, though well placed, instead of being two distinct shoals, ought to have been one entire shoal, stretching something further to the N. W. and S. E. than is therein represented; and the soundings between Barros de Zooniga and the land of punta de la Loma (which is omitted) are in no part, from the south extremity of the former directly across to the latter, more than four fathoms at high water, and from a narrow bar from the shore to the shoal, gradually deepening as well on the inside as on the outside of the bar, with a regular increase in mid-channel, from five close to the shore, to ten fathoms between the two low points that form the entrance of the port. This channel between the point de la Loma and the shoal is the only navigable passage for shipping; that to the north-eastward of the shoal does not anywhere exceed half a mile in width, which, with its shallow depth of water, renders it ineligible excepting for boats, or vessels of very small draught. The port however affords excellent anchorage, and is capable of containing a great number of vessels; but the difficulty, nay almost impossibility, of procuring wood and water under its present circumstances, reduces its value as a port of accommodation.

At the distance of about eight leagues, somewhere

where about N. 55 W. or N. 60 W., from point de la Loma, by a very uncertain estimation, is situated an island called St. John's; between which and the coast we passed without seeing it, nor did we observe it whilst we remained at anchor; excepting on one very clear evening, when it was seen from the Presidio, at a time when I was unprovided with a compass, or any other means of ascertaining its direction, and was therefore only able to guess at its situation. It appeared to be low and flat, is but seldom seen from the Presidio of St. Diego, and was undiscovered until seen by Martinez a few years before in one of his excursions along this coast.

The Coronados already mentioned consist of two islets and three rocks, situated in a south direction; four or five leagues from point de la Loma, occupying the space of five miles, and lying N. 35 W. and S. 35 E. from each other. The southernmost, which, in point of magnitude, is equal to all the rest collectively taken, is about a mile broad and two miles long, and is a good mark to point out the port of St. Diego, which however is otherwise sufficiently conspicuous not easily to be mistaken.

I shall conclude our transactions at St. Diego, by stating such astronomical and nautical observations as were made there, with those that had
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been made previously to our arrival and after our departure from that port, for the purpose of ascertaining the rates and correcting the errors of our chronometers; which, notwithstanding the restrictive orders that had been received at St. Diego, I had been enabled to accomplish to the utmost of my desires and expectations.

Astronomical and Nautical Observations.

On the 28th of November Kendall's chronometer, according to the last rate, shewed the longitude

to be	243° 22' 15"
Arnold's No. 14, ditto ditto	243 7 15
Ditto 176, ditto ditto	244 5 30

Longitude, by 45 sets of lunar distances, taken before our arrival, and reduced to St. Diego by Arnold's No. 14,

243 23 52

Longitude, by 59 sets of ditto, taken in the harbour

243 8 13

Longitude, by 102 sets of ditto, taken after our departure, and reduced back to St. Diego by Arnold's No. 14,

242 58 28

The mean of the whole, collective taken

243 6 45

Out

Out of the above 206 fets, 38 were

made by myself; mean	243° 11' 10"
Thirty by Mr. Baker, ditto	242 53 8
Seventy-one by Mr. Whidbey, ditto	243 7 52
Sixty-seven by Mr. Orchard, ditto	243 6 8

Latitude of port St. Diego, by 11 meridional altitudes of the sun (viz.) 5 with the artificial horizon, and 6 with the natural, reduced to the place of observation 34 42 30

Allowing the true longitude of port St. Diego to be 243° 6' 45", Kendall's chronometer was, on the 9th of December, at noon, fast of mean time at Greenwich 3^h 13^m 5^s

And gaining per day	20
Arnold's No. 14, ditto ditto	3 1 39
And gaining per day	21 38'''
Idem No. 176, ditto ditto	6 49 26
And gaining per day	36 27

Variation, by 2 compasses and 6 fets of observations, differing from 8° 28' to 14° 54', the mean 11 easterly

The vertical inclination of the magnetic needle,			
Marked end, North Face East,			59° 23'
Ditto ditto West,			59 38
Ditto South Face East,			58 32
Ditto ditto West,			59 45

Mean inclination of the marine dipping
needle, 59 13

The tides were found to run in general about two knots, though faster at spring tides, six hours each way. High water nine hours after the moon passes the meridian.

The situations of the different parts of the coast, from Monterrey, are corrected, and laid down, from the result of the above observations. The rates and errors of the chronometers having been ascertained by observations made with the artificial horizon at St. Diego.

CHAPTER