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M. LABILLARDIÈRE

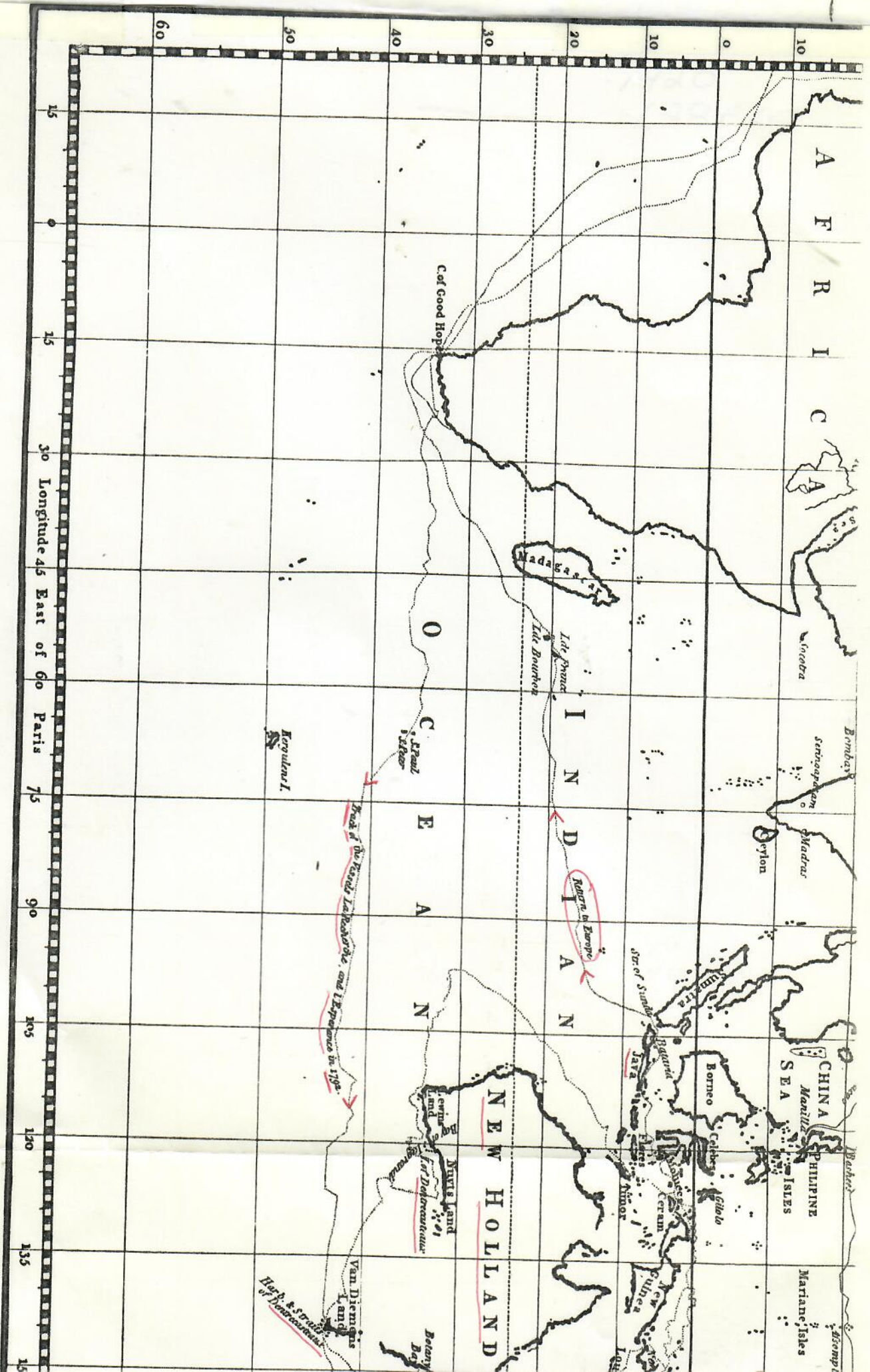
VOYAGE
" IN SEARCH OF LA PÉROUSE
1791-1794

need to
read > 449
Tuttle

Found trace of La Perouse?
Why mortality in Java?
Where, why, why - death of D'ENTRECASEAUX & Huon?
Discovered Kermadec? - L'Esperance Rock
Book of "Discovery"?
from Hamilton?

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Longitude East of Paris

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Kerguelan I.

Route of the Russian Lapteffs, and L. Krusenstern in 1791

High & Strait of De Witt

Van Diemens Land

Batavia

Amboyna

Surabaya

Malacca

Singapore

Penang

Sumatra

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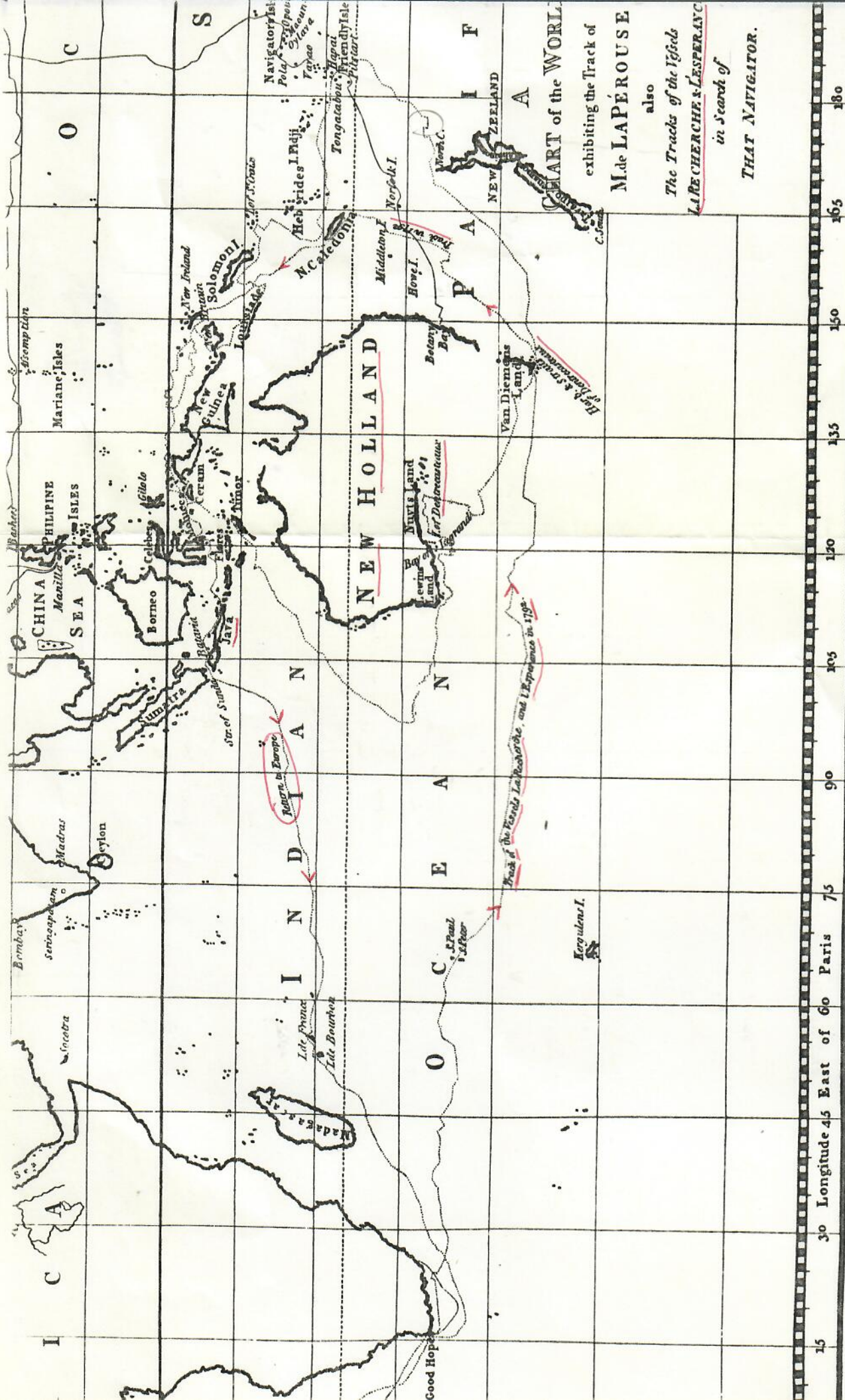
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PART of the WORLD
 exhibiting the Track of
M.de LAPÉROUSE
 also
The Tracks of the Vessels
L'ESPERANCE & L'ESPERANCE
in Search of
THAT NAVIGATOR.



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V O Y A G E

IN SEARCH OF

LA PÉROUSE,

PERFORMED BY ORDER OF

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY,

DURING

THE YEARS 1791, 1792, 1793, AND 1794,

AND DRAWN UP

BY M. LABILLARDIERE,

CORRESPONDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AT PARIS, MEMBER OF
THE SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, AND ONE OF THE
NATURALISTS ATTACHED TO THE EXPEDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

ILLUSTRATED WITH FORTY-SIX PLATES.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

1800.

INTRODUCTION.

NO intelligence had been received for three years respecting the ships Bouffole and Astrolabe, commanded by M. de la Pérouse, when, early in the year 1791, the Parisian Society of Natural History called the attention of the Constituent Assembly to the fate of that navigator, and his unfortunate companions.

The hope of recovering at least some wreck of an expedition undertaken to promote the sciences, induced the Assembly to send two other ships to steer the same course which those navigators must have pursued, after their departure from Botany Bay. Some of them, it was thought, might have escaped from the wreck, and might be confined in a desert island, or thrown upon some coast inhabited by savages. Perhaps they might be dragging out life in a distant clime, with their longing eyes continually fixed upon the sea, anxiously looking for that relief which they had a right to expect from their country.

On the 9th of February 1791, the following decree was passed upon this subject :

“ The National Assembly having heard the report of its joint Committees of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Marine, decrees,

“ That the King be petitioned to issue orders to all the ambassadors, residents, consuls, and agents of the nation, to apply, in the name of humanity, and of the arts and sciences, to the different Sovereigns at whose courts they reside, requesting them to charge all their navigators and agents whatsoever, and in what places soever, but particularly in the most southerly parts of the South Sea, to search diligently for the two French frigates, the Bouffole and the Astrolabe, commanded by M. de la Pérouse, as also for their ships' companies, and to make every inquiry which has a tendency to ascertain their existence or their shipwreck ; in order that, if M. de la Pérouse and his compa-

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“ nions

“ nions should be found or met with, in any place whatsoever, they may
 “ give them every assistance, and procure them all the means necessary
 “ for their return into their own country, and for bringing with them
 “ all the property of which they may be possessed; and the National
 “ Assembly engages to indemnify, and even to recompense, in propor-
 “ tion to the importance of the service, any person or persons who shall
 “ give assistance to those navigators, shall procure intelligence concern-
 “ ing them, or shall be instrumental in restoring to France any papers
 “ or effects whatsoever, which may belong, or may have belonged, to
 “ their expedition :

“ Decrees, farther, that the King be petitioned to give orders for the
 “ fitting out of one or more ships, having on board men of science, na-
 “ turalists, and draughtsmen, and to charge the commanders of the ex-
 “ pedition with the two-fold mission of searching for M. de la Pérouse,
 “ agreeable to the documents, instructions, and orders which shall be de-
 “ livered to them, and of making inquiries relative to the sciences and to
 “ commerce, taking every measure to render this expedition useful and
 “ advantageous to navigation, geography, commerce, and the arts and
 “ sciences, independently of their search for M. de la Pérouse, and even
 “ after having found him, or obtained intelligence concerning him.”

Compared with the original, by us the President and Secretaries of
 the National Assembly, at Paris, this 24th day of February 1791.

(Signed) DUPORT, President.
 LIORE, } Secretaries.
 BOUSSION, }

From my earliest years, I had devoted myself to the science of natural history; and, being persuaded, that it is in the great book of Nature, that we ought to study her productions, and form a just idea of her phœnomena, when I had finished my medical course, I took a journey into England, which was immediately followed by another into the Alps, where the different temperatures of a mountainous region present us with a prodigious variety of objects.

I next

I next visited a part of Asia Minor, where I resided two years, in order that I might examine those plants, of which the Greek and Arabian physicians have left us very imperfect descriptions; and I had the satisfaction of bringing from that country very important collections.

Soon after my return from this last tour, the National Assembly decreed the equipment of two ships, in order to attempt to recover at least a part of the wreck of the ships commanded by La Pérouse.

It was an honourable distinction to be of the number of those, whose duty it was to make every possible search, which could contribute to restore to their country, men who had rendered her such services.

That voyage was, in other respects, very tempting to a naturalist. Countries newly discovered might be expected to increase our knowledge with new productions, which might contribute to the advancement of the arts and sciences.

My passion for voyages had hitherto increased, and three months spent in navigating the Mediterranean, when I went to Asia Minor, had given me some experience of a long voyage. Hence I seized with avidity this opportunity of traversing the South Seas.

If the gratification of this passion for study costs us trouble, the varied products of a newly discovered region amply compensate us for all the sufferings unavoidable in long voyages.

I was appointed by the Government to make, in the capacity of naturalist, the voyage of which I am about to give an account.

My Journal, which was kept with care during the whole course of the voyage, contained many nautical observations; but I ought to observe, that that part of my work would have been very incomplete, without the auxiliary labour bestowed upon it by Citizen Legrand, one of the best officers of our expedition.

I take this opportunity of testifying my grateful remembrance of that skilful mariner, whose loss in the present war is a subject of regret.

When I was leaving Batavia, in order to proceed to the Isle of France, Citizen Piron, draughtsman to the expedition, begged my acceptance of duplicates of his drawings of the dresses of the natives, which he had

made in the course of the voyage. I do not hesitate to assure my readers, that those works of his pencil are striking likenesses.

I have endeavoured to report, in the most exact manner, the facts which I witnessed during this painful voyage, across seas abounding with rocks, and among savages, against whom it was necessary to exert continual vigilance.

General Dentrecasteaux received the command of the expedition. That officer requested from the Government two ships of about five hundred tons burden. Their bottoms were sheathed with wood, and then filled with scupper nails. It was not apprehended that this mode would diminish their velocity, and it was thought that it would add to the solidity of their construction. It is, however, acknowledged that ships sheathed and bottomed with copper may be constructed with equal solidity, and that they have greatly the advantage in point of sailing. Those ships received names analogous to the object of the enterprize. That in which General Dentrecasteaux embarked, was called the Recherche (Research), and the other, commanded by Captain Huon Kermadec, received the name of the Esperance (the Hope).

The Recherche had on board one hundred and thirteen men at the time of her departure: the Esperance only one hundred and six.

ON BOARD OF THE RECHERCHE.*

<i>Principal Officers.</i>	
<u>Bruny Dentrecasteaux</u> , Commander of the Expedition,	Louis Ventenat, ditto, acting as Chaplain,
Doribeaup, Lieutenant,	<u>Beautems Beaupré</u> , Geographical Engineer,
Roffel, ditto,	Piron, Draughtsman,
Cretin, ditto,	Lahaie, Gardener.
Saint Aignan, ditto,	Warrant and Petty Officers - - - 8
Singler Dewelle ditto,	Gunners and Soldiers - - - 18
Willaumez senior, Ensign,	Carpenters - - - - - 3
Longuerue, <i>Eleve</i> ,	Caulkers - - - - - 2
Achard Bonvouloir, ditto,	Sail-makers - - - - - 2
Dumerite, Volunteer,	Pilots - - - - - 3
Renard, Surgeon,	Armourer - - - - - 1
Hiacinthe Boideliot, Surgeon's Mate.	Blacksmith - - - - - 1
Letrand, Astronomer,	Sailors - - - - - 36
Babillardiere, Naturalist,	Young Sailors - - - - - 3
Deschamps, ditto,	Boys - - - - - 4
	Cook, Baker, &c. - - - - - 5
	Domestics. - - - - - 8

* The name of every individual on board both the ships is inserted in the original; but it seems unnecessary to retain any names in this translation but those of the officers and men of science, who, if we may use the expression, are the chief *dramatis persone*, and several of them come forward, in their respective capacities, in the course of the work.—*Translator*.

INTRODUCTION.

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ON BOARD THE ESPERANCE.

<i>Principal Officers.</i>		
Huon Kermadec, Captain,	Blavier, ditto,	
Trobiant, Lieutenant,	Jouveney, Geographical Engineer,	
Laffeney, ditto,	Ely, Draughtsman.	
Lagrandiere ditto,	Warrant and Petty Officers - - -	8
Lulançay, ditto,	Armourers - - - - -	2
Lamotte Dupertail, ditto,	Gunners and Marines - - - - -	14
Legrand, Ensign,	Carpenters - - - - -	2
Laignel, ditto,	Blacksmith - - - - -	1
Jurieu, Volunteer,	Caulkers - - - - -	2
Boyne, <i>Eleve</i> ,	Sail-makers - - - - -	2
Jouanet, Surgeon,	Pilots - - - - -	4
Gauffre, Surgeon's Mate.	Sailors - - - - -	36
Pierfon, Astronomer, acting as Chaplain,	Boys - - - - -	5
Riche, Naturalist,	Cook, Baker, &c. - - - - -	5
	Domestics - - - - -	8

It is melancholy to add, that of two hundred and nineteen people, ninety-nine had died before my arrival in the Isle of France. But it must be observed, that we lost but few people in the course of our voyage, and that the dreadful mortality which we experienced was owing to our long stay in the island of Java.

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we found throughout the whole extent of the strait. We left it about noon; when we discovered an opening E. S. E. about 15,000 toises in breadth, which affords a passage into the main sea.

To the northward we observed a vast bay, or rather a gulph, intercepted with islands, and connected with the main land, which we saw at a distance. Several bights in the land that incloses the gulph, seemed likely to afford good anchorage.

CHAP. VI.

Importance of the Strait of Dentrecasteaux—Run from Cape Diemen to New Caledonia—Coasting the South West of New Caledonia—Dangerous Situation of the Recherche near the Reefs on that Coast—Little Cluster of Islands at the Northern Extremity of New Caledonia—View of the Natives—Prodigious Extent of the Reefs—View of the Land of the Arfacides, and of the Treasury Islands—Coasting the Western Part of the Islands of Bougainville, and Bouka—Dangerous Situation of the Recherche, on the Shoals off the Island of Bougainville—Interview with the Savages of Bouka Island—Their Taste for Music—Their Treachery—Their Canoes—Determination of several Points of Bougainville and Bouka Islands—Anchor in Carteret Harbour—Several Excursions on the neighbouring Land—Incessant Rain during our Stay at Carteret Harbour—Different Observations.

WE had now compleated a geographical discovery of great importance to navigation. It was a point of the greatest utility to know exactly the harbours in which ships might find shelter from the heavy gales and impetuous storms, which prevail at this extremity of New Holland. A road, which is not less than 22,000 toises in extent, in that particular

At the place, where we found our latitude at noon to be $20^{\circ} 6' 4''$ south, our longitude being $161^{\circ} 10' 36''$ east, we had on the east 22° north, a little island, distant 1,000 toises.

Another island bore from us north 80 degrees west, at the distance of about 8,000 toises. Those two islands were connected together by reefs.

We saw other lands, bearing north 28° east.

A fire, on the little island nearest us, not far from a rivulet descending from a mountain, indicated that those little spots of land were frequented by the natives.

The strong gusts of wind which blew in the night, would have greatly embarrassed us in any other situation; but, under shelter of the islands and reefs, it was easy for us to beat about during the night.

— June 30. Some little islands towards the east, seemed to terminate this little archipelago. Their elevation gradually diminished, in proportion to their distance from New Caledonia. They seemed indeed to be only a continuation of the mountains of that large island; their bases being covered by the sea, and their summits rising above it, and forming so many little islands. The gradual diminution of the height of those mountains, makes it reasonable to suppose that in those seas, shoals extending to a great distance, contribute to augment the dangers of navigation. In the sequel, we shall see that this supposition is by no means destitute of foundation.

We directed our course to the north-west, very near the reefs, which precluded our access to the little islands.

The Commander informed the captain of the Esperance, that in case of separation, the two ships should rendezvous at port Pralin or Carteret harbour.

Our latitude at noon was $19^{\circ} 28' 10''$ south, and our longitude $160^{\circ} 36' 12''$ east; the most northerly of the little islands bearing east, at the distance of 8,000 toises. ?

We came in sight of a chain of reefs, which extended as far as the eye could reach, towards N. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. in some places forming bights, by taking a westerly direction. With the wind at E. S. E. it was easy for

us to follow all the windings of those reefs. In the afternoon, we steered parallel to them for nearly 20,000 toises and then thought that we saw their extremity. We were already felicitating ourselves with having terminated this dangerous and troublesome navigation, and entering into an open sea, when the watch announced shoals and a succession of reefs, in the direction of N. N. W. It was now too late in the day to intangle ourselves among them, and we worked to windward during the night.

A booby, of the species *pelecanus varius*, allowed itself to be caught about sun-set. It differed from the ordinary species, by having a lighter colour. This bird came, without distrust, and sat down on the round top, beside one of the sailors. The species is remarkable for being but little afraid of man: they will even frequently light on one's arm, when presented to them. Their sense of smelling must not be very subtle; for their nostrils consist of but two slight chinks in the upper mandible, which is moveable like that of the parrot.

JULY 1st. We now believed that we had completed the survey of this frightful chain of reefs, which obstructs the sea for near 100 marine leagues from the S. E. to the N. W.; and we were 10,000 toises to the northward of them, about noon, when we found ourselves in $18^{\circ} 50'$ of south latitude, and $160^{\circ} 32'$ of east longitude.

We next steered towards the N. N. E. in order to ascertain whether or not those reefs extended to the north-east.

One of the crew, called Moulin, about two o'clock in the afternoon, discovered to the northward, at the distance of 10,000 toises, a little low island covered with very tufted trees, and bordered towards its western side, with reefs, extending towards W. N. W. This island, which is not above 2,500 toises in circumference, is situated in $18^{\circ} 31' 10''$ of south latitude, and in $160^{\circ} 32' 14''$ of east longitude.

Agreeable to the promise of the General, this island was called Moulin's Island, after the man who first observed it.

About four o'clock two other little islands were descried towards N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. distant about 8,000 toises. As it was impossible for us to

pass those islands before night, at five o'clock we directed our course to the S. S. E. and we kept the ship's head that way till the morning.

We were surrounded during the night with flocks of birds, which inhabited those low islands. Notwithstanding the darkness, the man-of-war birds came and hovered over our ship, and several boobies alighted upon our yards.

—2d. The Commander had intended to anchor under the shelter of Moulin's Island; but we found ourselves carried above 5,000 toises to leeward, and it would have been extremely difficult to work up to windward against both wind and current. We therefore steered N. N. E. and it was not long till we observed, towards the north, breakers not far from the two little islands, which we had observed the preceding day. We steered parallel to them, at the distance of about 1,000 toises and in their direction, which was towards the north-west.

From the point where we observed our latitude at noon, which was 18° 7' 46" south, our longitude being 166° 32' east, we saw the nearest reefs, at the distance of near 10,000 toises to the eastward. We continued to steer along them, in the direction of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N.

About a quarter past one o'clock, we discovered, at the distance of nearly 8,000 toises towards the east, a low and very woody island, which appeared to us to be at the least 8,000 toises in circumference; and it was surrounded with rocks almost level with the water. Having the wind against us, we steered very near it: the breakers extended towards the north-east to the estimated distance of about 8,000 toises, and in the midst of those reefs, we saw black pointed rocks, similar to those which we had observed before.

This new island is in latitude 18° 3' south, and in longitude 160° 31' east.

We steered towards the north, and about four in the afternoon, we had the last of those rocks to the eastward of us, at the estimated distance of 8,000 toises. There those reefs seemed to terminate; appearing to extend towards the east, and then towards the south. Their northern extremity is in 17° 54' of south latitude, and 160° 30' of east longitude, and about ten leagues to the north of Moulin's Island.

1 = 2.4 - 4.6
Stat. miles

It was easy for us to perceive, by the force of the waves, that we were disengaged from the reefs.

A great number of tropical birds, boobies and man-of-war birds, quitting their retreats in the different little islands, came and played in airy circles about the ship, almost the whole day. We saw the trunks of several cocoa-nut trees floating, which had been torn by the waves from the place of their growth.

About six in the evening, the lead indicated fifty-eight fathoms depth of water, with a bottom of fine sand, our latitude having then been $17^{\circ} 51'$ south, and our longitude, $160^{\circ} 18'$ east. We remained an hour upon that bank, where we hove the lead several times, and had from fifty to sixty-six fathoms in depth.

Thus we completed the discovery of a dreadful chain of reefs, so much the more dangerous towards the north, as they are wholly out of sight of land. Although they appeared to us interrupted, to the northward of New Caledonia, it is probable, notwithstanding what we observed, that they are re-united farther to the eastward.

Those reefs, are well known to be the work of *polypi*; and the danger attending them is the more to be dreaded, as they form steep rocks covered by the water, and which can only be perceived at a small distance. If a calm take place, and a ship be carried towards them by the currents, her loss is almost inevitable. Vain would be the attempt to save her by the anchor, for it would not reach the bottom, even close to those walls of coral, which rise perpendicularly from the depths of the sea. These works of the polypus, which, by continually increasing, obstruct more and more the bed of the ocean, may well be supposed dreadful to navigators; and many shoals which now allow a vessel to pass over them, will, at no very distant period, be converted into reefs extremely dangerous to ships.

The compass experienced but little variation, while we were cruising along this immense chain of rocks; for at their southern extremity, it was observed, to be 11° easterly, and it was diminished only two degrees, when we had reached their northern extremity.

— 3d. The next day we steered N. N. W. ; but we saw no more breakers.

7th. At half past nine P. M. the moon being elevated about 15° above the eastern part of the horizon, we observed, in the west, a lunar rainbow. It differed in nothing from the solar rainbow, except that its colours were not so vivid. This phenomenon is much less frequent than might naturally be expected.

The allowance of water was very small, which was a prodigious hardship in latitudes so near the Line; and we had not the means of procuring more; although we were provided with Doctor Poissonnier's apparatus for distilling sea-water. This contrivance was of no use to us, as it required much more fuel than we could spare; for when water is scarce on board ship, wood is never abundant.

About ten o'clock A. M. we descried the Arfacides, which we made near Cape Nepean. Those lands, discovered in 1767, by Captain Surville, in the service of the former French East India Company, were since seen by Shortland, who, thinking he had made a new discovery, gave them the name of New Georgia.

Our latitude at noon was $8^{\circ} 52'$ south, and our longitude $154^{\circ} 38'$ east. The nearest land then bore E. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. E. distant 15,000 toises.

9th. At half past four o'clock, we descried the rock called Eddy-stone, bearing north-west, distant about 8,000 toises. At a distance, we took it, as Shortland did, for a vessel under sail. The deception was the greater, as the colour of it is nearly that of the sails of ships; but some shrubs adorned its upper part.

The lands of the Arfacides opposite to this rock, are steep and covered with large trees to their summits.

Several fires kindled on the mountains, indicated the presence of the savages.

Our observations ascertained the situation of Cape Nepean, to be 8° S. lat. and $154^{\circ} 56' 24''$ E. long.

The Eddy-stone rock is in 8° S. lat. and $154^{\circ} 5'$ E. long. and consequently more to the eastward of Cape Nepean than Shortland alleges.

We lay to from two o'clock in the morning till day-light.

10th. Early in the morning, we saw the Treasury Islands, bearing
N. W.

N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. distant 20,000 toises. They are situated 20 leagues to the north-west of the Eddy-stone.

About noon, we were distant about 2,500 toises from the western point of the largest, and most westerly island of that little groupe. It is in $7^{\circ} 25' 36''$ S. lat. and $152^{\circ} 56' 34''$ E. longitude.

Those islands are five or six in number, and so near together, that at a distance, they appear to form but one island, as was believed by General Bougainville, who saw them to the westward, when passing through the channel to which he gave his name. The *Esperance* only distinguished three islands: we saw five distinctly, and, had we been nearer, we should probably have seen more. The mountains which form those islands, are of a moderate elevation, and almost every where covered with large trees. The little groupe occupies a space about ten leagues in circuit; the east and west points being extended into shoals.

After having sailed round them, we steered N. N. E. in order to view the eastern part of the island of Bougainville. About five o'clock P. M. we were near its southern extremity, where we espied a groupe of ten little islands, the largest of which extends from east to west. Being covered with large spreading trees, interspersed with palms, those islands presented an enchanting prospect. Very near their southern side, we observed among them some breakers, which rendered it dangerous to approach them.

Two canoes, in which we distinguished a number of natives, were under sail, and seemed to steer towards us; but they passed behind the little island nearest us, and their rapid motion soon carried them out of our sight. On the beach of the same little island, we saw a company of ten natives, near a canoe, which lay upon the sand, and which they did not attempt to launch, in order to visit us. As night approached, it was necessary for us to go about, in order to get into the offing.

11th. A violent rain drenched us during the night, and was succeeded by a thick fog, which enveloped the land, and did not permit us to approach it, till some hours after sun-rise.

Some

C H A P. XIII.

Departure from Tongataboo—We get Sight of the Southern Part of the Archipelago of the Tierra del Espiritu Santo, (New Hebrides)—Discovery of the Island of Beupré—We Anchor at New Caledonia—Interviews with the Natives—Description of their Huts—These Savages are Cannibals—Their Impudence toward us—They eat great Pieces of Steatite, to appease their Hunger—Their Attempts to seize upon our Boats—Different Excursions into the Interior Part of the Island—Death of Captain Huon—New Species of Spider, on which the Savages of New Caledonia feed.

a massive
talc-
graygreen
in color;
Soapstone

10th APRIL.

ABOUT seven in the morning we got under way, with a pretty fresh breeze from the east-south-east, and steered for an hour from north-west by south to north, and afterward north by east, passing out through a channel toward the north of our anchoring place, which had been examined by Citizen Legrand.

In this channel we found by the lead from five fathoms and a half to nine fathoms water.

Some of the natives followed us in their canoes, expressing great regret at our quitting their island. They cried out from all parts, *offa, offa Palançois*, at the same time giving us marks of their regard.

We soon got ahead of the canoes that were paddled along; but those with sails were obliged to slacken their rate of going, to keep at a short distance from us; and we had an opportunity of observing, that they would have taken the lead of our vessels considerably, if they had availed themselves of the whole force of the breeze: this advantage, however, they would soon have lost, if the wind had been stronger, and the water less smooth. As soon as we got into the open sea, they desisted from keeping us company any farther. We were then more than two leagues

leagues from the anchoring place we had just quitted, and we set the west end of Attata, bearing south 48° west.

At this time we had a gravelly bottom, with twenty-two fathoms and a half of water.

11th. The next day, about five in the afternoon, we made Tortoise Island, bearing from us north-west by north.

On the 16th, about seven o'clock in the evening, the Esperance made a signal for seeing land west 18° north, about eight leagues distance. This was Erronan, the easternmost of the islands of the archipelago of Espiritu Santo, discovered by Quiros in 1605. A little before noon the island of Annaton was in sight, distant ten leagues, south-west by south.

It was five in the afternoon when we made the island of Tanna, bearing west 16° north. Pillars of smoke issued from its volcano, and spread abroad in the air, forming clouds, which rose at first to a prodigious height, and which, after having traversed an immense space, sunk lower as they grew cooler. During the night we enjoyed the brilliant spectacle of these clouds, illumined by the vivid light of the burning matter, which was thrown out from the bowels of the volcano at intervals.

18th. We were steering westerly, the wind blowing very fresh from the east, when, about half after three in the morning, Dumérite, the officer on the watch, heard the screeams of a flock of sea-fowl passing very close by our ship: apprehensive that we were near some of the rocks, which commonly serve them as a retreat, he thought it advisable to bring to, and wait for day-light to continue our course: and as soon as day broke, we saw a very little way to leeward of us some reefs of rocks stretching a great way, on which our ship must inevitably have struck, if this fortuitous occurrence had not given us notice to stop our course in time. In fact, as the night was extremely dark, it would have been impossible to have seen the breakers soon enough to avoid them: besides, the wind blowing very fresh, the sea ran so high all round us, that we could not soon enough have distinguished the waves that broke on the reefs from the rest. Beyond these reefs, and near two leagues distant from them, we saw an island, which bore, when we made it, south 28° west, and to which I

gave the name of Citizen Beaupré, engineer-geographer to our expedition. This island lies in the latitude of 20° 14' south, longitude 163° 47' east. It is very low, and about 1500 toises long. We afterwards discovered some rocks bearing south 21° east; and a little while after some others towards the south.

It is to be remarked, that the currents set us to the north about twenty-four minutes a day, when we were near Tierra del Espiritu Santo, and passing between that archipelago and new Caledonia. Undoubtedly this is owing to the position of the land, which, while it changes the direction of the currents determined by the general winds, increases their strength.

About one o'clock in the afternoon we got sight of the high mountains of New Caledonia to the south-west; and at half-after four we were within a thousand toises of the reefs bordering that island. The foot of the mountains on this side are washed by the sea, and they are likewise more steep here than on the western shore, which we coasted along the year before.

We saw a fine cascade, the water of which, after having disappeared several times in deep gullies, came tumbling into the sea; and we admired the picturesque effect of the torrents, which we perceived toward the south-west, their waters white with foam producing an agreeable contrast to the dusky verdure of these high lands.

During the night we continued plying to windward, endeavouring to maintain our station against the currents, that we might be in a situation to come to an anchor the next day.

19th. As soon as day-light appeared we approached within 800 toises of the reefs, along which we ran, in order to find the opening through which we were to reach the anchoring place; but it blew very hard from the south-south-east, and we had already fallen to leeward, when we distinguished the opening in the reefs. Though we were pretty near the shore, we did not perceive Observatory Island, which left us for some time doubtful whether we were opposite the place where Captain Cook anchored in 1774; and accordingly we put about, to get more to the

the north-east. At noon we found by our observations, that we must be near Observatory Island, and it was not long before we got sight of it, though it is extremely low; when we immediately bore away for the anchoring place. In the opening between the reefs we had from eleven fathom water to thirteen and a half, but when we got within them we had only from seven fathoms to eight and a half.

A double canoe immediately came sailing out to us. She had on board eleven natives, whose manœuvres gave us no very high idea of their skill in navigation. They spoke to us, and showed us some pieces of white stuff, which they waved in the air, still keeping more than a hundred toises from the ship. A short time after they returned on shore.

The Esperance, being a little to windward of us, grounded on a shoal, which we in consequence took care to avoid, and presently after let go our anchor, in order to lend her assistance. General Dentrecasteaux immediately sent our long-boat to her, and at eight o'clock in the evening we had the agreeable news that she was again afloat, and had received no damage.

20th. At sun-rise the next morning we saw four canoes under sail, coming towards our ships. When they got very near us, they seemed to be under some fears: but one of the savages, having yielded to our invitations, and come on board, was followed by almost all the rest. We were surprised, to find them set more value on our stuffs than on our nails, or even hatchets, which they called *togui*; a name much resembling that given them at the Friendly Islands, though they do not speak the same tongue, as may be seen by the vocabularies of the languages of these people, at the end of the present work. We could not doubt, however, but they were acquainted with iron, which they designated to us by the denomination of *pitou*; but the very hard stones which they use, renders it of less importance to them, than to many other inhabitants of the South Sea Islands.

We showed them some cocoas and yams, and requested them to bring us some: but, far from going to fetch any for us, they wanted to buy ours, offering us in exchange their spears and clubs, and giving us to understand

derstand that they were very hungry, putting their hands to their bellies, which were extremely flat. They expressed some fear on seeing the pigs which we had on board, which led us to suppose that they had no such animal; though Captain Cook had left two, a boar and sow, with one of their chiefs. As soon as they saw our poultry, however, they imitated the crowing of the cock tolerably well, so as to leave us no doubt that they had fowls on their island.

None of the women in the canoes consented to come on board our vessel; and when we were desirous of making them a present of any thing, the men took it to carry to them.

These savages came in double canoes of the shape represented in Plate XLV. Fig. 1. Their mast was fixed at an equal distance from the two canoes, and toward the fore part of the platform, by which they were joined together. They are not so skilfully constructed as those of the Friendly Islands, to which they are much inferior in point of sailing. One of them, running against our ship with too much force, received so much damage, that the canoe on one side soon filled. The savages in her immediately got upon the other, and let themselves go with the current, which drifted them toward the shore. The other canoes left us presently after, and sailed after her, in order to give her assistance.

21st. Early in the morning we manned the capstan, in order to warp our ship nearer to Observatory Island; for which purpose we had carried out several hawfers tied end to end; but they gave way several times, and obliged us to let go the anchor again.

We were surrounded by canoes, the natives in which came on board our ship, and sold us several articles, such as are delineated in Plates XXXVII and XXXVIII. Some of them had a few cocoa-nuts and sugar-canes, which they would not part with by any means, though we offered a great price for them.

These savages were all naked, except that they wrapped their privities in pieces of coarse stuff, made of bark, or in large leaves of trees. Their hair is woolly; and their skin is nearly of as deep a black as that of the inhabitants of Diemen's Cape, whom they very much resemble in the general cast

cast of their countenance. Several of them had their heads bound round with a little net, the meshes of which were large. We observed with surprise, a great many, who, desirous, no doubt, of having the appearance of long hair, had fastened to their own locks two or three tresses, made with the leaves of some plants of the grass kind, and covered with the hair of the vampire bat, which hung down to the middle of their backs.

Most of these islanders, armed with spears and clubs, carried at their waist a little bag full of stones, cut into an oval shape, which they throw with slings. (See Plates XXXV and XXXVIII. Fig. 16, 17, and 18.) The lower lobe of their ears, perforated with a very large hole, hung down to their shoulders. Into these holes some had introduced leaves of trees, others a piece of wood, to stretch them bigger. Several had this lobe jagged; perhaps from having been torn, either in battle, or in running through the woods.

Behind the ears of one of these savages we observed tubercles of the shape of a veal sweetbread, and half as big as a man's fist. He appeared well pleased at seeing us examine this ornament, the growth of which he had effected by means of a caustic, by which the parts, no doubt, must have been greatly irritated for a considerable time.

The women had no other garment than a kind of fringe, made of the filaments of the bark of trees, which served them as a girdle, passing several times round the waist (See Plate XXXVI).

The canoes kept themselves close by our ship, by means of different ropes, which we had thrown out to them. Each of them, however, had a large stone, to serve as an anchor, fastened to a long rope, but they did not make use of these on the present occasion.

22d. The next day we got up our anchor at six o'clock in the morning, and made several stretches to get nearer to Observatory Island, which the natives call by the name of *Pudyona*. At half after ten, when we brought up, this island was not above 500 toises distant to the east $3^{\circ} 15'$ south. We saw the land of New Caledonia from east $19^{\circ} 30'$ south, to west 12° north, from the nearest shore of which we were only 590 toises. The inhabitants

The voracity of which the Caledonians had given us evident proofs, prevented the General from giving them the he and she goats as he had intended: they had, doubtless, devoured the hogs and the two dogs, of which Captain Cook had made a present to one of their chiefs. They scarcely took any care of their fowls; I only saw three hens and one cock during our stay in the island.

We did not perceive amongst them any of the articles given them by Captain Cook. Perhaps these riches had been the cause of the misfortunes of the inhabitants of this coast, by exciting their neighbours to come and plunder them.

I remarked with astonishment that the authority of their chiefs had always appeared very inconsiderable in our various dealings with the savages; but I was not less surprised to find that they exercised great power when their own private interest was at stake, for they generally seized upon such articles as their subjects had received from us.

While we were in New Caledonia we enjoyed a pretty serene sky.

The winds varied from the north-east to the south, and the strongest were the east and the south-east.

Our moorings were in lat. 20° 17' 29" south, and 162° 16' 28" east longitude.

The variation of the needle was 9° 30' towards the east.

The mercury in the barometer never rose above 28 inches 2 lines and 2-10ths, and never fell below 28 inches 1 line and 4-10ths.

Notwithstanding the excessive heat which we felt on the coast, the thermometer never exceeded 25°, and on board never rose above 21°.

The tides were not observable above once a day, when we lay at anchor. The flood took place at half past six, and the waters rose in perpendicular height four feet seven inches.

We could not gather the least intelligence during our stay at New Caledonia, concerning the fate of those unfortunate navigators who were the object of our researches. It is not, however, improbable, that this dangerous and almost inaccessible coast proved fatal to them. We know that La Pérouse was to have explored the western coast of it, and one

is chilled with horror in reflecting on the fate that would await those unfortunate seamen, should a shipwreck have obliged them to seek for refuge amongst the cannibals that inhabit it.

C H A P. XIV.

Departure from New Caledonia—Interview with the Inhabitants of the Island of St. Croix—Their Treachery—One of these Savages slightly pierces with an Arrow the Forehead of one of our Seamen, who died some Time after in Consequence of the Wound—Singular Construction of their Canoes—View of the Southern Part of the Archipelago of Solomon—Interview with its Inhabitants—Their Perfidy—The Northern Coast of Luisiade reconnoitred—Interview with its Inhabitants—Dangers of that Navigation—Sail through Dampier's Straits in order to reconnoitre the North Coast of New Britain—Death of General Dentrecasteaux—The Scurvy makes great Ravages in both Ships—Death of the Baker of the Recherche—Cast Anchor at Waygiou.

—10th MAY. 1793

EARLY in the morning we set sail from New Caledonia, but were no sooner in the open sea than we were becalmed near a long range of rocks, which we perceived to eastward, and against which the sea broke in a tremendous manner; we however got clear of them, favoured by a light breeze from the south-east: sailed by them in a longitudinal direction on the 11th and 12th, and on the 13th descried beyond that chain to the west the island of Moulin, at about 17 miles distance, and afterwards the Huon Islands.

Next day our vessel was on the point of being dashed to pieces on the rocks with which these islands are surrounded, when at day-break we perceived the danger of our situation. We immediately tacked about and

and stood off from them, and discovered before the evening that these rocks were connected with those along which we had sailed the year before.

Soon after we steered for the island of Saint Croix, which, early on the morning of the 20th, we perceived to the north-west, at about twenty-two miles distance.

Next day, about four in the afternoon, being then three miles distant from the shore, we perceived two natives coming towards us in a canoe with an out-rigger. They kept at a great distance till five other canoes had joined them, when they came nearer to our ship. One only of these canoes carried three savages, the others contained no more than two. They addressed their conversation to us, and made signs for us to land upon their island, but none of them would venture on board our ship, notwithstanding repeated invitations to that effect. The boldest of them did not come nearer than about fifty yards. They were armed with bows and arrows, and their whole dress consisted of necklaces and bracelets ornamented with shells.

As night approached, our sailors worked the ship to stand on different tacks, when the savages left us and returned to the coast, but several hours afterwards, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, we were visited by another canoe, the savages in which certainly thought that we understood their language, for they spoke to us for a long time in a very low tone of voice, but, not receiving any answer, they at length returned to their island.

22d. At day-break we approached the coast, and soon perceived twelve canoes making towards us. They hastened alongside of our vessel, and the most of them were loaded with different kinds of fruit, amongst which I remarked the bread-fruit, but of a smaller size, and not so good in quality as what we had met with at the Friendly Islands; it was not, however, of the wild sort, for it only contained a very small quantity of seed.

We were not a little surprized to observe that those islanders set very little value on the iron which we offered them, though we could not doubt that they knew the use of it, for one of them had a piece of a

joiner's chissel with a wooden handle, of the same kind as their stone hatchets; but when we showed them some pieces of red cloth, their admiration, expressed by the words *youli, youli*, gave us hopes of succeeding better with these articles in bartering for their commodities than with our hardware. In fact they consented to sell us some of their arms, but probably fearing, lest we should turn them against themselves, they took the precaution not to part with any of their bows, and even to blunt the arrows which they sold us.

Soon after several of them gave us proofs of their dishonesty. With a view to cheat us of our articles in bartering, they at first offered a good equivalent, but insisted on having our goods delivered to them before hand, which they kept, refusing to give us any thing in return.

About eight o'clock in the morning, the General sent two boats to find a creek, which we perceived at about a mile distance to the north-west. On a sudden we lost sight of them, and were under some apprehensions respecting them, when, about noon they appeared again at the mouth of the creek, which they had been to reconnoitre. Several musket-shot fired from these boats gave us to understand that they had been attacked by the savages. At the report, the canoes which surrounded us made off with great precipitation. Our boats were not long before they arrived, and informed us that the opening which we had taken for a bay, was the extremity of a channel, which separates the island of St. Croix from that of New Jersey. This channel extends in length N.E. & E. being at the utmost not three miles long, and its greatest breadth does not exceed one mile. It was sounded with great accuracy, and a line of sixty-seven yards did not find the bottom in any part of it, not even within an hundred yards of the shore.

A great number of canoes had followed our boats, whilst large parties of savages on the shore endeavoured to entice our people to them, by shewing their cocoa-nuts, bananas, and several other fruits; at length some of them swam off with those productions of their island in exchange for such pieces of cloth of different colours as were intended for them.

Our boats on their return, at the entrance into the channel, and near
a small

previously affected with an emphysema, which had encreased with astonishing rapidity, in consequence of the heats of the Equator.

On the 11th we doubled the Cape of Good Hope of New Guinea, and on the 16th cast anchor at Waygiou.

CHAP. XV.

Abode at Waygiou—Scorbutic Patients are speedily relieved—Interviews with the Natives—Anchor at Bourou—Passage through the Straits of Bouton—Ravages produced by the Dysentery—Anchor at Sourabaya—Abode at Samarang—My Detention at Fort Anké near Batavia—Abode at Isle de France—Return to France.

DURING our stay at Waygiou we were frequently visited by the natives, who brought us turtles, several of which weighed from 200 to 240 pounds. They had mostly been taken on the islands of Aiou. The soup which we made of them afforded great relief to our scorbutic patients. When the natives perceived that we were in need of them, they made us pay for them at ten times their value. These animals continued to crawl about several hours after their heads had been cut off. The natives sold us likewise, turtle eggs roasted and dried; broiled turtle flesh, pullets, hogs, of which they told us there was great abundance in their woods; oranges, cocoa-nuts, papayas, gourds of different kinds, rice, purslain (*portulaca quadrifida*), sugar canes, pimento, unripe ears of Turkey corn roasted, and the fresh sprouts of the papaya tree. They told us that the sprouts and unripe fruit of this tree were very good eating when boiled. They brought us also sago, made into a sort of flat cakes, three inches broad and six long, which they ate without any farther preparation. Some of them brought us sago made into a fourish tasted paste, after having undergone fermentation.

Most of these islanders were naked all but their natural parts, which they cover with a coarse stuff apparently made of the bark of the fig tree. The heat of the climate renders all other cloathing unnecessary. Only their chiefs wear very wide trowsers and jackets, made of stuffs which they buy from the Chinese, who, as they told us, came from time to time to anchor where we were. Some of them wore also bracelets of silver, which they had likewise bought of the Chinese. Almost all the chiefs of these savages had been at the Molucca Islands, and spoke the Malay language. Some wore hats made of the leaves of vacoua, of a conical form, and very like to those of the Chinese. Others had their heads bound round with a sort of turban. They have all curled hair, which grows very thick, and to a considerable length. The colour of their skins is not very black. Some suffer the beard on the upper lip to grow, and have their ears and the division of the nose bored. Several of them shewed us their dexterity in shooting with the bow at a mark placed at the distance of more than forty paces; and their arrows always came very near their aim. Others were armed with very long lances, pointed with iron or bone. These islanders undoubtedly know how to forge the iron, as they set great value upon some bars of this metal, which we gave them. Tin was likewise in great request with them. But of all our commodities they gave a decided preference to cloth, particularly such as was of a red colour.

The island Waygiou, called by the inhabitants Ouarido, is covered with large trees, and throughout mountainous, even at a very small distance from the coast. The huts were built of bamboo, raised upon stakes, about three yards above the ground, and covered with reeds.

It is remarkable, that as soon as we had landed, those of our crew who were the least affected with the scurvy, or even shewed no symptoms at all of that disorder, became affected with a considerable degree of swelling all over the body: but this symptom, which had very much alarmed some of us, disappeared entirely after walking three or four hours.

During our stay in this island I made very frequent excursions into the forests, where I collected a great number of new plants, and killed a variety

riety of rare birds, amongst which was that species of the promerops which Buffon calls the promerops of New Guinea; also a large *psittacus aterrimus*, and a new species of calao, to which I gave the name of the calao of the island Waygiou. Its beak is bent, of a dirty white colour, and about six inches in length. Each mandible is unequally notched, and the superior is surmounted by a hood of a yellow colour, flat at the top and ridged. The wings and body are black, the tail white, and the neck of a lively red. (See Plate XI.) This beautiful bird is two feet in length, from the tip of the beak to the extremity of the feet.

I saw several wild cocks in the woods. The female of this species, which was brought us by the natives, was scarcely larger than a partridge, and yet its eggs were as large again as those of our domestic hen. This wild species of the dunghill-cock is black, that which I had found in the forests of Java was grey.

The crowned pheasant of India (*columba coronata*) is very common in these thick forests, where we found here and there wild orange trees, the fruit of which furnished our scorbutic patients with a very wholesome sort of lemonade.

The natives told us, that the roadstead where our vessels rode at anchor was infested by alligators; but this did not deter several of our sailors from bathing in it. We afterwards found some of the prints of their feet in the woods. It is particularly during the night-time that these animals are most to be feared.

Whilst we lay at anchor we were visited by several of the chiefs. The chief of Ravak supped and slept on board the *Esperance* the night before our departure; but as soon as he saw preparations for weighing anchor, he threw himself into the sea, from the apprehension that we were going to carry him away with us. We should have been surpris'd at his harbouring such a suspicion, if we had not been informed, that five months before the Dutch had carried off his brother, during an entertainment which they had made for him on board of their vessel. This chief

wore trowsers, with a very wide Indian cloak, and a of satin waistcoat. His ear-rings were of gold.

The inhabitants of this island had declared war against the Dutch, and the greater part of them, with the most powerful of the chiefs, to whom they give the title of Sultan, at their head, were gone to unite with the inhabitants of Ceram, in order to attack the Governor of Amboyna, who was expected there on his visit to the Molucca Islands. The inhabitants of the huts built on the coast near our anchoring station, had provided for the safety of their women and children, by conducting them, before their departure from the island, into the villages in the heart of the country. The roadstead where our vessels lay is called by the natives Boni-Sainé. It is distant about 5,130 toises to the eastward of Ravak, and formed by the coast of Waygiou and a small island called by the natives Boni, which was eastward of our station. We were here almost under the Equator, our latitude being found by observation $38''$ S. Our longitude was $128^{\circ} 53'$ E.

We took in our water towards the extremity of the roadstead, at a pretty large river, into which our boats could enter more than 500 toises from its mouth at low water, and twice as far at high water.

The thermometer, as observed on board, did not rise higher than 24° , undoubtedly in consequence of the abundant rains.

The barometer varied only from 28 inches 1 line to 28 inches $1\frac{1}{2}$ line.

The variation of the magnetic needle was $1^{\circ} 14'$ E.

The breezes were very flight, and varied only from S. S. E. to S. W.

On the 28th we sailed from Waygiou, and ranged along its northern coast, standing to the west, in order to weather the westerly point. We here met with a flat which is not indicated upon the charts, where the soundings gave us a depth of from four to eight fathoms, within a space of about 300 toises in length, which we were obliged to cross. We observed in different places, rocks almost even with the water's edge, but were fortunate enough to keep clear of them. The greatest length of this flat is about 1,000 toises from north to south.

On

On the 4th of SEPTEMBER we cast anchor in the roadstead of Bourou, at the distance of 1,000 toises from the Dutch settlement, in a depth of 20 fathoms, over a bottom of sand and mud. The Commander of this station immediately sent a corporal to us, to offer us a supply of whatever fresh provisions we might have occasion for. A few minutes after we observed some muskets fired amongst a herd of buffaloes that were walking along the shore, and were informed that the Resident had ordered two of the fattest to be killed for the use of our vessels. Well acquainted with the wants of navigators, he had sent us a great quantity of fruit, several bottles of an agreeable liquor extracted from the palm-tree, and some of the young leaves of a species of fern of the *genus asplenium*, which grows in moist places in the shade: eaten as salad they are very tender and well-tasted.

The Resident, Henry Commans, was a man of great simplicity of manners, and very much beloved by the inhabitants. It was he whose happiness the Dutch of Amboyna described, by telling us that he might sleep as much as he pleased. We met with several persons in his house who had seen Admiral Bougainville during his stay at Bourou, and who mentioned the name of that celebrated navigator with enthusiastic admiration.

This and the following day were employed by me in surveying the different districts of this island, which presents every where a very varied and picturesque appearance. The sago tree grows here in great abundance: it forms the principal source of subsistence to the inhabitants, and affords even an article of exportation. Large plantations of it were seen near the Dutch establishment, in marshes which render this place very unhealthy, particularly in the beginning of the spring. The cayou pouti of the Malays (*melaleuca latifolia*), grows in great abundance upon the hills. The Resident showed us a large alembic, which he uses for distilling the leaves of this tree, from which he procures every year a great quantity of the oil of cajeput.

The island of Bourou produces several kinds of wood proper for inlaid work, which are in great request among the Chinese; and others useful
in

in dyeing. Two Chinese vessels were run aground in the mud to the N. E. of the Dutch fort. The village near which the fort is built is called Cayeli, in the Malay language. Those of the natives who follow the Mahometan religion have a mosque, whose roofs diminishing in regular gradation as they rise one above the other, present a very agreeable appearance. (See Plate XLII. which represents a part of this village.)

The coast to the east of the village is watered only by very small streams, but about 2,500, toises to the N. W. we went up a very considerable river, called by the inhabitants Aer-Bessar, which discharges itself into the roadstead. This river is very deep, and for the length of about 2,000 toises, as far as we went up it, more than 70 feet broad. The island of Bourou undoubtedly owes its possessing so considerable a stream to the great elevation of its mountains. On the borders of the river I frequently found the beautiful shrub known by the name of *portlandia grandiflora*.

The pebbles rolled from the mountains, which I found on the banks of several rivulets, were fragments of rocks of quartz mixed with mica, and frequently of a sort of free stone, which likewise consisted of quartzose particles.

Birds, especially parrots, are so numerous in this island, that it probably derives from this circumstance its name, which signifies in the Malayan language, a bird.

The woods afford such abundance of deer, goats and wild boars, that the natives can furnish the Resident with as many as he has occasion for, at the rate of two musket shots fired at each. The species of boar called babi-rouffa (*sus babyrussa*), is also found here.

The natives seemed to be much afraid of several kinds of snakes, which they told us were very numerous in their island; but during the whole of our stay in this place, which I spent almost entirely in rambling through the woods, I never met with one of these reptiles.

Although the rainy season had not yet set in, violent storms blew almost every night from the high mountains.

Upon founding the bay, we discovered at its entrance, a little on this side

side of the east point, called Point Rouba, a shelf of rocks, at a depth of not more than a fathom throughout an extent of about 2,000 toises; but the rest of this spacious outlet very deep, and that even at a small distance from the western point, or Point Lessatello, called by the natives *Tanguion Corbau* (Buffalo Point).

According to astronomical observations made at the village of Cayeli, its latitude was $3^{\circ} 21' 54''$ S. long. $125^{\circ} 1' 6''$ E.

The dip of the magnetic needle was $20^{\circ} 30'$.

Its variation, as observed on board, was $0^{\circ} 54'$ E.

The highest point indicated by the thermometer on board was 23° , and on shore $25^{\circ} 3-10$ ths.

The mercury in the barometer varied only from 28 inches 1 line to 28 inches 2 lines.

The time of high water on the full and change days was three quarters after eleven; it then rose to six feet perpendicular height.

On the 16th we sailed from Bourou, steering for the Strait of Bouton, which we entered on the afternoon of the 22d.

17th. On the following day, about sun-set, we cast anchor 513 toises from the coast, opposite to the outlet of the channel which separates Pangefani from Celebes. Rossel, who, in consequence of Dauribeu's being indisposed, had now the command of the expedition, formed the project of sailing out through this channel. Early in the morning of the 24th, he dispatched a pinnace, which reconnoitred the channel to the extent of 15,000 toises. A great number of small islands were scattered throughout the Strait, particularly towards the coast of Celebes; and both coasts were almost every where bordered with marshes. After this report many of our seamen thought there was reason to apprehend that we might not be able to find a sufficient depth of water in every part of the channel for our vessels to pass through it; however we sailed into it on the following day, and, after having proceeded about 10,000 toises east, anchored at the close of the evening.

26th. The following day another pinnace was sent out to sound throughout the whole of this passage. She returned on the 29th in the afternoon, with

with the intelligence that she had found a great number of sand-banks and some flats, very difficult to be discovered on account of their black colour, which rendered the passage extremely dangerous. It was therefore determined to return to the Strait of Bouton; and after having been obliged to cast anchor, often several times in the course of a single day, we at length arrived, on the 7th October, at its southern extremity, and anchored near the village of Bouton, at the distance of 1,000 toises from the nearest coast.

We had spent a considerable space of time in passing through this Strait, as we were obliged to lie at anchor during the whole night time, and in the day to wait till the tide was favourable to our intended course, before we could set sail.

During our passage the natives brought us various sorts of fruits common in the Moluccas. Some of their boats had a cargo of wild bread-fruit, the kernels of which, those who eat of them, found very indigestible, even when roasted. They brought us likewise a great number of pullets, goats, dried and sometimes fresh fish. Most of these natives would not exchange any of their commodities with us, before they had asked permission of the Commander of our vessel, to whom they generally made a present. They informed us that a year ago they had seen four European vessels sailing through this Strait, namely, two from Ternate, the others from Banda and Amboyna. These people trade with the Dutch. They preferred money to any other commodity we offered them. Most of them, however, were very desirous to procure powder and ball from us; but when they found that we would not give them any, one of them offered us two slaves in exchange for a small quantity of ammunition, and appeared extremely surpris'd that we did not accept of his proposal.

These islanders brought us a great number of parrots, of the species *psittacus alexandri* and *psittacus cristatus*.

We were much surpris'd to see them bring some cotton stuffs, and thread made of the *agave vivipara*, which, they told us, were of their own manufacture.

I made use of the opportunities afforded me by our detention in the Strait to go on shore. I found a great number of plants which I had never met with before: among others, the uviform nutmeg tree described by Citizen Lamark; its fruit has no aromatic quality. I likewise collected the *cynometra ramiflora* the *gyrinocarpus* of Gærtner, and various species of *calamus*, which, after raising themselves to the summit of the tallest trees, descend again to the ground, from whence they climb up others trees of equal height, their stalks frequently growing to the length of several hundred yards.

The fruit of the *bombax ceiba*, and that of several new species of the same genus, affords abundant nourishment to the numerous troops of apes that are found here, some of which we killed in order to preserve their skins.

The moist ground exhibited almost every where marks of the feet of deer, wild boars, and buffaloes. We frequently found numerous herds of the last-mentioned animals lying upon the wet ground; but they always betook themselves to flight as soon as they saw us, and it was impossible to pursue them through the mire.

In the island of Pangefani I frequently traversed thick forests of the palm, known by the name of *corypha umbraculifera*, where I found squirrels of the species called *sciurus palmarum*, which always fled at the approach of a man.

The natives had erected several sheds near the shore, where they kept the bamboo hurdles, upon which they place their fish when they dry them at the fire in order to preserve them.

The islanders, aware of the danger of living near the morasses, which render the northern coast of Pangefani very unhealthy, have built no villages in that part of the country. It was in the midst of these morasses that our crew became first infected with a dysentery of a very contagious nature, which produced the greater ravages amongst us, as we were already much debilitated by the long use of bad provisions, which had become still more unwholesome during the course of our voyage. I was also infected with this disorder, which proved fatal to great numbers of our crew.

8th. This morning at sun-rise, four chiefs, who bore the title of Oran-kai, came on board to notify to us, that we were not permitted to land, before the Sultana, who resided at Bouton, and was an ally of the Dutch Company, had been previously informed of our design. We told them that we were very desirous of viewing this part of the island, and one of them went immediately to signify our wish to that petty sovereign.

We were soon visited by two Dutch soldiers, who offered to procure us an interview with the Sultan, assuring us that without his permission the natives durst not sell us any provisions. They then conducted us to their own dwelling, where we were informed that the Sultan would not be visible till very late in the afternoon. Upon this intelligence a considerable number of us took an excursion into the interior of the island, directing our route to the eastward. The natives did not appear surpris'd at seeing us, and shew'd no inclination to follow us.

After having walked for more than two hours along the banks of a small river, covered with a great number of boats, some of which had come from the strait laden with fish, we forded the stream with a view of proceeding to the northward. We went up very steep ascents, where I collected a great number of plants; among others, the *barleria prionitis*, and several new species of the *croton*.

Most of the habitations in this part of the country were built upon the summits of delightful hills, with which this side of the island abounds. We met with a very friendly reception from the inhabitants, who presented to us fruits of different kinds. One of them, who went to gather some cocoa-nuts for us, climbed very quickly to the top of the tree, by means of an expedient which to me appeared singular. He tied his legs together near the ankle with a stripe of cloth, by which he was enabled to grasp the trunk of the tree with his feet so strongly as to support the whole weight of his body; and, as the stem was not very thick, by thus clasping it alternately with his feet and his arms, he very soon reached the top.

We remarked some forts built on the most inaccessible heights amongst these

these hills, which serve the inhabitants for a place of refuge when their habitations are invaded by an enemy. These fortifications consist of stone walls of considerable thickness, and about ten or twelve feet high, inclosing a plot of ground from sixty to eighty feet square.

The natives who sold us stuffs a few days before, had not deceived us when they told us that they had been manufactured in the island of Bouton. We saw to-day, in several of the houses, looms for manufacturing similar stuffs; the workmen performing their operations in a manner very like our linen weavers. They use cotton threads of various colours; but red and blue appear to be the most in request among the natives.

About four o'clock in the afternoon we went to the village of Bouton to see the Sultan. We had not been informed that it was necessary to bring some presents with us, in order to be admitted to an audience. As we had nothing to offer him, he was not to be spoken with; but his son and nephew received us at the fort where he resides. They frequently repeated to us, with great emphasis, that the whole island was under his dominion; that he was an ally of the Dutch Company, and that their enemies were his enemies. They then told us that the natives of Ceram having lately invaded their coasts, four of them were taken and delivered up to the King, who immediately ordered them to be beheaded. They then desired us to step a few paces further, and shewed us, with an air of great satisfaction, the heads of these unfortunate islanders, exposed upon long poles planted on the walls of the fort.

The village of Bouton is built upon an eminence with a very steep declivity to the north-west, and surrounded with thick walls which secure the inhabitants from the incursions of their enemies. The houses are built of bamboo, and their roofs covered with palm-trees, like those of the other inhabitants of the Moluccas.

The Sultan resides in a fort built of stone. It appeared to us that this chief shews great distrust of the agents of the Dutch Company, though they are his allies; for the three Dutch soldiers, who were the only inhabitants of the Company's house, were not permitted to live in the vil-

lage where he resides. They were obliged to remain in an inconvenient, isolated dwelling, more than 1000 toises distant from his residence. They were soon to leave the island, and go to Macassar; but were still detained by the apprehension of meeting with the vessels of the natives of Ceram, which had been cruising for some time in these seas.

It was already night when we returned to the shore in order to go on board. As it was then low water, we were obliged to wade in the sea up to our waists, though the greater part of us had laboured under the dysentery for several days, which was very much aggravated in consequence.

During the day the natives had brought, for the use of our vessels, rice, maize, sugar canes, pullets, eggs, ducks and goats. In exchange for these provisions they had been offered hardware commodities, but they preferred the money current in the Moluccas, especially the small silver coin which they call *koupan pera*, and which is brought over by the Dutch from Europe.

The time of high water in this bay at full and change days, is about one o'clock in the afternoon, the tide rising six feet perpendicular height.

Our anchoring station was $5^{\circ} 27' 8''$ S. lat. $120^{\circ} 27'$ E. long.

On the 9th in the afternoon we weighed anchor, and steering under full sails to get out of the strait of Bouton, we soon reached the open sea.

On the 11th we passed the strait of Salayer. A great number of canoes and natives were seen upon the beach, others were sailing towards Celebes.

We cast anchor several times along the coast of Madura, and on the afternoon of the 19th, in a bottom of reddish mud, at the depth of five fathoms, not far distant from the north-west point of the island, and at the entrance of the channel that leads to Sourabaya, one of the principal establishments of the Dutch in the island of Java. As we intended to come to anchor there, a pinnace had been dispatched, about nine o'clock in the morning, to the village of Grisé, by the *Esperance*, to demand a pilot who could conduct us through the channel.

Five days elapsed without our receiving any news of our pinnace. We were

were apprehensive that she had fallen in with pirates ; and, on the 23d, another was sent out, upon the supposition that the former had not arrived at the place of her destination ; for we could not have imagined that she had been detained by the Dutch, who were well acquainted with the purpose of our expedition : but on the 25th, we received a letter from the officer who had the command of the pinnace, acquainting us that he was detained prisoner by the Dutch, who were then at war with France. Soon, however, a message was brought us from the Council of Sourabaya, informing us that in pursuance of the instructions which they had just received from Batavia, they were willing to afford us every assistance in their power ; and on the 26th two pilots were sent us. We were obliged to cast anchor several times before we could get into the roads of Sourabaya, where we cast anchor on the 28th, about 1,000 toises northward of the river that runs through the town ; the flag of the fort bearing S. 2° E. and the village of Grisé W. 30' N.

The dysentery had already carried off six of our crew since our departure from Bouton.

31st. We soon obtained permission to reside in the town of Sourabaya, where I procured a lodging in the house of Messrs. Bawer and Stagh, who received me with the greatest cordiality.

NOVEMBER 10th. The council revoked the permission they had granted us, and all our company were immediately obliged to return on board, with the exception of our invalids, to which number I belonged, the dysentery having left me in a state of extreme debility. Being now removed from the rest of my fellow-sufferers in this contagious malady, I was very much relieved by the use of purgatives, sago, and skimmed milk ; and in a short time completely recovered.

It was high time that this captivity should have an end ; for the number of sick persons on board increased with alarming rapidity. Almost one half of the crew were attacked with dysentery and contagious fevers, which did not abate of their violence till they had carried off several of our men. At length the Council again granted the permission which they had revoked a few days before, and we had the satisfaction of meeting again together in the town.

The heat was excessive during the first days of our stay at Sourabaya. I was astonished to see Reaumur's thermometer rise to 27° ; but these burning heats were but of short duration; for the change of the monsoon, which took place about the beginning of November, caused for a considerable time, especially in the afternoon, abundant falls of rain, which cooled the atmosphere to such a degree, that the thermometer did not stand higher than 22° or 23° , in the hottest part of the day.

As soon as my health was a little re-established, I made frequent excursions in the environs of the town, and as far into the country as my strength permitted me. I had the pleasure of seeing my collections of natural history encrease with a great number of specimens which I had never before met with.

Most of the roads to a considerable distance from Sourabaya are shaded by hedges of bamboo. Others were inclosed between long avenues of *mimusops elengi*, *guilandina moringa*, *nauclea orientalis*, *hibiscus tiliaceus*, &c. the shade of which produces a very salutary effect in this fervid climate. I was much surprised to see the last mentioned tree send out branches from the whole length of its trunk, as far down as the root; differing in this respect from all of the same species, that I had seen in other places, but I soon observed some of the Javanese employed in making incisions very close to each other in the bark of the trees with a large knife, and was informed that this operation has been practised here from time immemorial for the purpose of causing young shoots to sprout from the places cut in this manner. They always choose the rainy season for performing this operation, as it succeeds with most certainty at that period. Vegetation is then so rapid in this climate, that a very short time after the incisions had been made, I saw them filled with a vast number of young buds. The inhabitants of this island are, however, in general but little skilled in the agricultural arts.

On the 12th of December, those of us who were engaged in the pursuit of natural history, obtained permission from the Governor of Sourabaya to visit the mountains of Prau, situated at the distance of about 30,000 toises west-south-west of the town.

On the following day we set out for the village of Poron, situated near the foot of the mountains. The Javanese who carried our baggage, suspended it to long poles of bamboo, each borne between the shoulders of two men.

Having proceeded about 20,000 toises, we arrived at Sonde Kari, where we dined after the Javanese fashion with the chief of the village, who had ordered a sumptuous repast to be prepared for us. It consisted of several dishes of broiled fish, and the flesh of buffaloes and horses that had been preserved, as we were told, for six months, by being cut into thin slices, and dried in the sun. All the dishes were seasoned very highly with pepper, pimento and ginger. Rice served us in the place of bread, and the entertainment concluded with a plentiful desert of excellent fruit.

We soon set forward on our journey, and were overtaken by a heavy rain, which put us to great inconvenience. A serjeant of the Dutch troop gave us a proof of his authority over the Javanese, who returned to the village we had left, by taking out of their hands the umbrellas which they had brought with them; none of them daring to resist. We did not know what he intended to do with them, till he came up and offered them to us, saying, that he thought it very presumptuous in these men to shelter themselves from the rain, while they saw us exposed to it; but to his great surprize, none of us would make use of the umbrellas, but desired him to return them to the owners.

At length we arrived at the village of Poron, where we were received by the chief, who bears the title of Deman. His principal office is to apportion to the natives their daily tasks of labour.

The country through which we had passed is a vast plain, in which rice is principally cultivated. The plantations were already covered with six or eight inches of water, retained by the earthen mounds with which they were surrounded.

Before we arrived at Sonda Kari, we had observed large plantations of indigo. This article is principally cultivated in Java by the Chinese, who have a much more extensive acquaintance with the arts than the natives.

We

We saw likewise several fields in which the *ricinus communis* was cultivated, from the seeds of which the Javanese extract a kind of lamp-oil.

This plain contains also a few plantations of maize, sugar canes, and the *holcus forghum*.

We spent the night in a very neat house, built of bamboo, which stood close by that of the Deman.

14th. On the following day we baited at the west extremity of the same village upon lands under the jurisdiction of the Tomogon of Banguil, who, though he resided at the distance of more than 7,500 toises from thence, came early in the morning to give orders to the inhabitants to provide for our safety, and furnish us with whatever eatables we might want.

The Tomogon was a man of much good sense, spoke the Dutch language very well, and had a competent knowledge of the affairs of Europe. He was a Chinese by birth, but had embraced the Mahometan religion in order to obtain the title of Tomogon.

We were extremely fatigued with the journey we had made the preceding day upon the small horses common in this island. Their very hard trot galled us the more, as the saddles we were obliged to make use of were not stuffed, but consisted of a very hard kind of wood, with a thick piece of skin glued on for their only covering. Besides, the Javanese stirrups were too short for us, and could not be lowered, which rendered our posture extremely uneasy. We therefore went very little from our habitation during this day, but on the following (15th), we passed over a plain about 2,500 toises in length, and for the greater part already covered with water, before we arrived at the mountains of Prau. The Tomogon of Banguil came to this place on horseback, accompanied by upwards of a hundred attendants, very well mounted. We found him in the forest, where he waited for us; but, having probably very little idea of the simple mode in which naturalists choose to travel, he had made his men bring chairs with them for us to sit down upon at the top of one of the mountains, from whence we had a view through the trees of a great extent of country, which he told us was all in his dependency; and, to impress it the more strongly upon our minds, he immediately ordered the tops of several

veral tek-trees to be struck off; but we saw with regret more than a hundred feet of the trunks of these beautiful trees destroyed and sacrificed to such a momentary gratification.

Peacocks were very common in these forests through which we rambled in every direction, and we shot several of them. Amongst other plants, I collected several beautiful species of *waria*, *heleteres* and *bauhinia*.

The natives were employed in clearing a fine piece of ground at the foot of the eastern mountains. The smaller trees they cut down with axes; the larger they only stripped of their bark near the root, in order to make them decay.

In the afternoon a distant sound of thunder ushered in a violent fall of rain, as is usual at this season, which compelled us to hasten back to our habitation. The Tomagon, before he returned to Banguil, repeated the orders he had already given to the natives, to provide for our safety and our wants.

On the following days we visited the mountains of Panangounan, penetrating into the territory of the Emperor of Solo through vast forests of tek-trees, under the shade of which the *pancratium amboinense* grew in abundance. Our guides often expressed their fear of meeting with tigers, which, they told us, were very common in the thickets on the banks of the rivers, where they lie in wait for the animals that come to drink. We, however, met with none of these beasts of prey.

The Javanese who accompanied us were almost continually on horseback, and did not dismount even in the most inaccessible parts of the forest; but whenever they saw the plant, called in their language *kadiarankri*, they immediately threw themselves on their feet, and ran as fast as they were able to gather it, trying to outstrip each other. Their eagerness raising our curiosity to know the cause of their valuing this plant so highly, we were informed that the knobs of its roots, dried and reduced to powder, were a powerful aphrodisiac. It appears that these auxiliary medicines are much esteemed amongst this people, as, indeed, they generally are amongst the inhabitants of hot climates. This parasite plant is only to be found upon the trunks of large trees. It was not yet at its pe-

riod of fructification ; however, it appeared to me to be a new species of the *pothos*.

During these excursions I killed several wild cocks, whose plumage was diversified with a variety of colours of admirable brilliancy. Their crowing, which we often heard in the midst of the woods, led us at first to imagine that we were in the vicinity of some habitation, but we soon learnt to distinguish their note perfectly well from that of the domestic cock. The comb of the wild cock is not red, but of a whitish colour, with a slight tinge of violet, which grows somewhat deeper towards the edges. The greater part of the swamps in the neighbourhood of our dwelling were covered with very large leaves of the *nymphaea nelumbo*, upon which we frequently observed a species of bird similar to that called *parra sinensis* ; and admired the lightness with which it walked over the surface of the water, stepping with its long legs from one leaf to the other.

At a small distance westward of the village of Porou, we saw two colossal statues, called by the Javanese *rechio*, and in high veneration amongst them. They were both hewn out of blocks of stone eleven feet high ; their drapery was very wide, and the physiognomy of the two heads bore a Moorish character. To me it appeared probable that these statues had been erected in honour of some of the Moorish conquerors of the Moluccas ; but the natives could give us no information upon this head.

The Dutch serjeant who accompanied us was a passionate admirer of the music of the Javanese. Soon after our arrival at Porou, he sent for a female singer, whose shrill voice was accompanied by two musicians, who played every evening upon instruments, one of which resembled a dulcimer, and the other a mandolin. Whilst we were employed in preparing and describing our collections, we were obliged to hear, for several hours together, this discordant music, which, however, had always charms sufficient to attract a great concourse of the natives round the performers.

All the airs were sung in the Javanese language. They generally turned upon the subject of love, as our serjeant, who understood the Javanese language perfectly well, interpreted them to us. He told us that these

airs were all *impromptu*, as those sung by the singing-women of Java generally are. Ours accompanied her voice with a variety of gestures appropriate to the subject, and especially with certain movements of her fingers of very difficult execution, which were much applauded by the natives. If report does not do them injustice, these singing-women are not distinguished by any extraordinary rigidity of virtue.

On the 20th we returned to Sourabaya.

Citizen Riche and I had formed a plan of spending some time among the mountains of Passervan, to which we had approached very near during our last excursion. They are very high, and we had often heard their fertility much spoken of. Grain is cultivated there with great success. Many European fruit-trees likewise succeed very well upon those heights, on account of the mild temperature of their atmosphere. It was necessary for us to procure a new order from the Governor before we could undertake this expedition; but Dauribeau, who had offered to request it for us, brought us information that the Governor had shortly received new instructions from the Council at Batavia, according to which he could not permit us to go to any great distance from the town; a walk of three or four hours, being all that was allowed us. I went several times to see a spring situated at the distance of about 7,500 toises to the westward. A great quantity of petroleum rises to the surface of its water, and is carefully collected by the inhabitants, who mix it with pitch. Abundance of pumice-stone is found in the surrounding country.

Citizen Riche and I lodged in the same house. We generally went out together to pursue our researches, and returned in the evening to Sourabaya with the new specimens we had collected. It was always with regret that we found our labours suspended by the approach of night. But on the 19th of February 1794, about four o'clock in the morning, Chateaufieux, the commandant of the place, came with a troop of thirty soldiers under arms, to inform us, in the name of Dauribeau and the principal officers of our expedition, that we were under arrest. Shortly after we learnt that several others of our companions had shared the same fate, without being able to divine the cause of so arbitrary an act of authority :

rity; but we were soon informed that intelligence which Dauribeaue had received from Europe, had determined him to hoist the white flag, and put himself under the protection of the Dutch, who were then at war with France. He had undoubtedly already then formed the project, which he afterwards carried into execution, of felling the vessels of our expedition. To insure his success, it was necessary for him to get rid of all those persons under him who he knew would strongly disapprove of such a measure. We were therefore delivered into the hands of the Dutch as prisoners of war, to the number of seven, namely, Legrand, Laignel, Guillaumez, Riche, Ventenat, Piron, and myself, and conducted to Samarang by a march of 200,000 toises, over roads bad in the extreme, and in the rainy season. We were obliged to use boats to cross several large plains, inundated by the torrents descending from the mountains situated to the southward, and which form a part of the great chain which runs through the whole island of Java from east to west.

Michel Sirot and Pierre Creno, servants on board the *Esperance*, followed us in our proscription.

Dauribeaue had robbed me of all my collections. When we left Sourabaya, I had intrusted to the care of Lahaie, the gardener, eleven bread-fruit trees, and an equal number of the roots and stems of this valuable plant, kept in clay in perfect preservation, and fit to produce as many young trees. He promised to take the best care of them, and gave me a receipt for the deposit.

The greater part of the crews were thrown into the prisons of the Tomagon of Sourabaya, from whence they were taken out some time after, part to be sent into those of Batavia, and part to remain with Dauribeaue.

We left Sourabaya on the 24th of February.

This town is situated in $7^{\circ} 14' 28''$ south lat. $110^{\circ} 35' 43''$ east long.

The variation of the magnetic needle was $2^{\circ} 31' 14''$ west, and the distance 25° .

After a long course of fatigue we at length arrived at Samarang, on the morning of the 11th March.

The Commandant of the place immediately conducted us to Governor Overstraaten.

Overstraaten. The Governor told us that the first surgeon of the hospital had got a lodging prepared for us, and sent us to take possession of it; but what was our surprise, when, having been introduced to the surgeon, he led us into one of the wards of his hospital, where he shewed us seven beds, which he said had just been made ready for us. There was neither table nor chairs in this place. It was in vain that we represented to him that we were not sick, and did not wish to become so by living in an hospital: his answer always was, that, according to the orders of his Excellency the Governor, he had no other lodging to offer us.

We were obliged at last to appeal to the Governor, and to make him sensible, if possible, of the harshness of such a mode of proceeding with respect to men, who, upon their return from a long and toilsome expedition, undertaken for the advancement of the arts and sciences, had a right to expect a better reception from a civilized nation. It was not, however, till after parleying for several hours, that the order for our imprisonment in an hospital was reversed. We were now permitted to live in the centre of the town, and this was our prison.

Some time after we obtained permission to go to the distance of about 2,500 toises from Samarang, but with the restriction that we should not approach the sea-coast.

During our march from Sourabaya to Samarang, I had been surprised to observe in the market places of several villages, shops where small flat squares of a reddish clay, called by the inhabitants *tana ampo*, were exposed for sale. At first I imagined that they might be employed for fulling cloths; but I soon observed the inhabitants chewing small quantities of this clay, and they assured me that this was all the use they made of it.

Whilst we were passing through the extensive rice plantations at the foot of the mountains, the natives had frequently pointed out to us fields of rice upon declivities too steep to be able to retain the water. The rice cultivated in these places was of a species, that does not require an inundated soil to succeed perfectly well; but the only cultivate it in the season when the land is daily drenched with copious rains.

I had

I had already remarked upon several hills in the island of Java, a great number of cocoa-trees which were stripped of their leaves and dead at the root. It had appeared very singular to me to find so great a number within so small a space; but I was at length informed, by several of the inhabitants of the hills situated at a little distance north-west of Samarang, where I saw many cocoa-trees in the same condition, that they had been struck by lightning, and they informed me that the same circumstance frequently happens upon many other hills in the island. In fact, these high trees are particularly exposed by their situation, to the terrible effects of the lightning; besides, the sap, with which they abound, contributes in a great degree to attract the electric matter.

On the 5th of April, we were informed that a packet was shortly to sail from Batavia for Europe. The Governor of Samarang was willing that two of us should go to Batavia, to solicit permission of the Regency for themselves to return in this vessel. As we were all animated by the same desire of revisiting our native country, we agreed to cast lots. The fortunate persons were Citizens Riche and Legrand, and on the 6th of May they set out for Batavia.

Twelve days after we received orders from the Governor of Samarang, to go to the same place, and there to wait for another opportunity of returning to France, than that of the packet above mentioned; for it was even very uncertain, whether or not Riche and Legrand would find a place in it.

Some of the Dutch who were interested about us, informed us that the fleet, upon which our hopes of returning to Europe depended, was not to set sail in less than six or seven months, and they assured us, that before that period it was not probable we should meet with any other opportunity of returning to our native country. The dysentery which I had caught among the marshes of Strait Bouton, made me apprehensive that a relapse would be produced by those of Batavia, where the exhalations are still more noxious. Besides, the situation of Batavia is so pernicious to Europeans, particularly during the first year of their abode there, that out
of

of every a hundre foldiers who arrived there from Europe, twenty-four generally die in the first year, and those who become somewhat accustomed to the climate, still remain in a languishing state of health. Other Europeans who have all the conveniencies of life at their command, do not die in so terrifying a proportion: but from the small allowance that was granted us as prisoners of war, we could not hope to be able to procure ourselves any thing beyond the mere necessaries of life.

Citizen Piron and myself obtained permission to delay our departure for Batavia till the Dutch fleet was just about to sail. Our companions in misfortune, Laignel, Ventenat, and Willaumez, set off for that place; and as soon as they arrived there they were sent to Fort Tangaran, more than 7,500 toises distant from the town. Riche and Legrand, instead of procuring a passage in the packet, which was immediately to set sail, had been exiled to Fort Anké. However, about two months afterwards, they had the good fortune to embark for Isle de France, on board of a vessel in which some prisoners taken from our privateers were conveyed to that place.

Dauribeau, not satisfied with having taken away my collections, requested of the Governor of Samarang, that the manuscript which contained the observations I had made during the voyage in search of Perouse might likewise be taken from me. In vain I protested against this violation of the most sacred species of property: Governor Overstraaten gave orders, on the 28th of July, that my effects, to which the seal had been applied a month before, should be searched; but fortunately my journal was not found.

Dauribeau shortly after his arrival at Samarang, for the purpose of treating with the Governor concerning the sale of the vessels, died there on the 22d of August.

As the time appointed for the sailing of the Dutch fleet was at hand, Citizen Piron and myself set out for Batavia on the 31st. On board of the vessel which conveyed us thither were several Javanese, one of whom was in irons. His unfortunate wife sat beside him, having voluntarily chosen to follow him in his banishment. We were penetrated with
compassion,

compassion, when we heard from the mouth of this unhappy man the occasion of his ruin. His name, he told us, was Píromongolo; he was of the village of Calibongou, in the dependency of the Government of Samarang. He had paid 350 rix dollars to become a freeman of that place, but was supplanted by another person, who offered a still larger sum for the same privilege; and those who had received his money, instead of returning it to him, thought fit put him out of their way by banishing him to Ceylon, where he was to be in the same confinement with many others of the inhabitants of the Moluccas, who are sacrificed by the Dutch to their revengeful disposition, or pretended political interests. Amongst the injuries that had been heaped upon him, he had been accused, he said, of being a forcerer. Though he assured us, with a great deal of simplicity, that if he was one, he had never known any thing about it; but at any rate he was sure that those who had robbed him of his three hundred and fifty dollars, were a much more dangerous kind of forcerers than he.

The salary which the different Governors of the Island of Java receive from the Dutch Company is very moderate, but then the abuses are connived at, which result from the very ample indemnification, which the greater part make themselves, by raising contributions upon the natives to a much greater amount than what they have to deliver into the magazines of the Company, the surplus of which they appropriate to their own profit.

The Chinese are almost the only persons employed here in the cultivation of sugar. They scarcely make any other than sugar-candy, which they are not allowed to sell, except to the Governor, who purchases it on the Company's account; but frequently he compels these unfortunate Chinese to sell it him at half the price which he makes the Company pay for it, though even they buy it a comparatively low rate.

The contributions which the Governors receive in specie, are likewise a great source of profit to them, as they keep this money in their own hands, and pay the amount to the Company in paper. During my stay in Java, their emoluments in this way amounted to twenty per cent.

The

The nomination of the natives to different offices, is likewise a source from whence the Governors and Residents derive great profits.

On 2d of September we anchored in the roadstead of Batavia.

4th. After we had remained two days on board, the Commandant of the roadstead conducted us on shore, and we were immediately conveyed to Fort Anké, distant not more than about 2,500 toises from the town. The same chamber was allotted us, which our companions in misfortune, Riche and Legrand, had formerly occupied.

We were surrounded on all sides by marshes, which render this situation very unhealthy: it is, however, much less so than that of the town, where, at low water, the black mud collected in a great number of canals, is exposed to the heat of the sun, and exhales the most pestilential effluvia. The marshes of Anké, on the contrary, were covered with a variety of plants, so close to each other, that they presented the appearance of fine meadows in full vegetation. A great number of different kinds of grasses, rushes, nelumbo, &c. grew forth from the bottom of the stagnant water, and the interstices between these plants were covered with large quantities of the *ptisia stratiotes*, which, floating on the surface of the water by means of the small air-bladders with which its leaves are provided at their bases, absorb a great quantity of the noxious vapours as fast as they are exhaled from the mud, and change them, with the aid of the solar rays, as we know, into respirable air. This transmutation is affected by the *ptisia* more than by any other plant; for it is known by experiment to be so powerful a preventive of the decomposition of stagnant water, that if fishes be put into a small quantity of water, in which they would otherwise perish in the course of a few days, they may be preserved alive for a long time, by covering its surface with these singular plants, every one of which occupies a space of about nine square inches.

These marshes are haunted by the enormous serpent known by the name of *boa constrictor*. One of these snakes came regularly every five or six days, and stole one of the fowls from a hen-coop belonging to a publican in the neighbourhood of Fort Anké, with whom we were allowed to take

our meals. This publican was a very severe master; for, whenever he missed one of his fowls he always taxed an old slave, who had the care of his hen-coop, with dishonesty; and for every one that disappeared, he ordered fifty strokes of a ratan to be inflicted without mercy upon the unfortunate wretch; but one day the thief having swallowed a very large hen, found himself so stuffed with his meal, that he could not get out of the coop by the hole through which he had entered; and the slave revenged himself for the chastisement he had received by cutting the animal in pieces. The fowl, which was taken out of his stomach, had been swallowed down head-foremost, and had as yet undergone no change in its substance. This serpent was but of a middling size, being only twelve feet in length; but a few days afterwards the natives killed one at a small distance from this place, which measured forty feet. It appeared that this animal did not use to prey upon fowls; for they found in his stomach a kid that weighed thirty pounds.

The river that runs at the foot of Fort Anké is frequented by alligators. One day I saw a very large one advance towards a company of boys who were swimming in the river. He immediately seized one of them and disappeared under the water: nevertheless, a few days after another company of boys came to bathe in the same place.

During the last months of our stay at Anké, four officers of the French privateer *Le Modeste* were confined in the same fortress, and alleviated the tediousness of our captivity by their company. They had been made prisoners of war on board of a Dutch vessel, shortly after they had made prize of her.

The Major of the place, who visited us very frequently, informed us of the death of Giradrin, purser to the *Recherche*, who was discovered to be a woman, as we had suspected from the beginning of the voyage. An impulse of curiosity seems to have been her principal motive for embarking in this expedition. She had left a very young child behind her in France.

The corvette *La Nathalie*, having Citizen Riche on board, had been
dispatched

dispatched from Isle de France to Batavia in order to demand our vessels from the Regency; but, after she had arrived in the roads, she was detained for five months under the cannon of two Dutch ships of war, and all that she could obtain was to sail back with those persons belonging to our expedition who were in confinement, and some other French prisoners of war.

At length, on the 29th of March 1795, we set sail for the Isle de France.

It was high time for me to be released from my confinement amongst the marshes of Fort Anké, as I had laboured already more than a month under a dy sentery, which was making a very rapid progress. But as soon as I was removed into a purer air, my malady diminished from day to day.

On the 18th of May we arrived at Isle de France. I made frequent excursions among the mountains, where I observed a great variety of natural productions.

I had long been waiting for an opportunity of returning to my native country, when at length General Malartic dispatched the *Minerva* to France, under the command of Citizen Laignel, one of my companions in misfortune. I embarked in this vessel, which sailed from Isle de France on the 20th of November.

It is remarkable, that during a run of upwards of 600,000 toises west-north-west, from 25° N. lat. and 31° W. long. we found the sea covered with a prodigious quantity of *fucus natans*, which indicate the existence of some very extensive banks upon which this sea-weed is produced. This is a subject well worthy of the investigation of navigators.

On the 12th of March 1796, we cast anchor at the Isle of Bar, from whence I soon returned to Paris.

Soon after I arrived in that city, I was informed that my collections of natural history had been sent to England. The French Government immediately put in their claim for them, which, being supported by Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society of London, with all the exertions

tions that were to have been expected from his known love for the sciences, I soon had the satisfaction of finding myself again in possession of the requisite materials, for making known to the world the natural productions which I had discovered in the different countries we had visited during the course of our expedition.

The bread-fruit plants which I left in the custody of the gardener La-haie, were transported, with several others which he had cultivated, to Isle de France; from whence some have been sent to Cayenne, and others to Paris, where they are deposited in the hot-houses of the Botanical Garden.