A voyage through the Coral Sea.

Some time must necessarily elapse before the results of the late North Pacific Surveying Expedition can be laid before the public. The work was essentially, a running nautical survey, sailing from point to point, and taking rapid but sufficiently accurate observations. The data accumulated is undigested for as fast as observations could be recorded, they had to be laid by as new scenes presented themselves calling forth the efforts of all hands. Out of the somewhat confused mass thus collected it is necessary to elaborate reliable results, and when we consider that good charts will soon be issued of the coasts of the Japanese Empire of the Loochoo & Cecile Archipelago, of the shores of the sea of Okhotsk of the Aleutian Islands, of Behrings Straits, Gaspar Straits leading from the Java to the China Sea, and many islands, reefs & other points incidentally visited, it is easy to see that time is requisite to go over, replot, & correct hundreds of observations.

Our Expedition labored under the ~~disadvant~~ disadvantages which it seems the fate of all government Expeditions to labor under, poor ships & chart

crew. Much time was consumed ~~necessarily spent~~ in shipping sailors who had finally to be influenced by hopes of Extra remuneration, which by the way the poor fellows have been disappointed in. We did get off at last & after touching at Madeira & the Cape de Verdes we took a final breathing spell at the Cape of Good Hope at that busy little Naval depôt Simons Bay. From here we separated, Each of the five vessels taking different routes. We of the Porpoise were instructed to cross the Indian Ocean, then passing through Bass Straits to reconnoitre a route from the Eastern ports of Australia to China. A running sketch of this voyage may prove interesting, and as it may serve to point out a route not usually followed, but certainly the best, I ~~have been~~ am induced to anticipate the official narrative and give to some chance navigator a "wrinkle" or two ~~which may~~

Our passage from the Cape to Bass Straits was boisterous and cheerless. Day after day we scudded before strong gales from the West and rolled before the immense and towering swells that came foaming after us. The weather was damp and cold and we were knocked about in our close wet quarters like forlorn hyenas in a travelling menagerie. Once in a very severe gale we were forced to heave-to —

~~very severe gale we were forced to heave to.~~
the seas swept ~~of~~ over us and ~~we lost a~~ carried with them one of our boats. We afterwards learned how lucky it was that we did heave-to, for in Hong Kong the ship carpenters found the stem-frame all rotten & said it was a great wonder we had escaped a watery grave. Had a heavy sea struck us, the frail rotten timbers would have given way & made a leak that all our efforts could not have stopped.

Flocks of Cape Pigeons and albatross followed in our wake & we frequently amused ourselves in fishing for them. There was always a great Excitement when a large albatross was hooked, for they are very strong & as we would try to ~~of~~ pull them in they would spread out their wings and web feet in the water and hold back with all their might. Dozen succeeded in catching one or two and it would not be long before the unhappy victim that had so lately winged his stately flight over the Indian Ocean, ~~now~~ would be lying motionless labelled for the "Smithsonian".

Having traversed six thousand miles of stormy sea, we at last found ourselves, one evening ~~by our reckoning~~, about twenty miles, by our reckoning, from the Entrance to the straits that separate Van Diemen's Land from Australia. We could see nothing of the land owing to ~~so~~ hazy weather, but ~~the chart indicated~~ if our reckoning was right we should have ~~had~~ been in fifty fathoms water. So we dropped ~~we dropped~~

the lead overboard and sure enough the line indicated just that depth. Feeling confident therefore of our position we kept on and directed our course to enter Bass Straits although it was to be done during utter darkness.
When I was in the "Buckeye" we had a civilian on board as passenger, whom we were carrying as Minister Plenipotentiary from our Government to "all the Brazils". I remember his expressing his astonishment at the perfection to which navigation had reached, when we discovered Cape Frio right ahead just as we said we should, and at the predicted time. "Why," said he, "I always thought you ~~made~~ struck the coast ~~somewhere~~ anywhere ~~about~~ within two hundred miles of the port and then that you ran down until you found it." Our illustrious passenger would have been much more astonished during this exploring cruise on many occasions, when we were obliged to run through passages of a few miles in width in the darkness of night, and depending on our astronomical observations & log to keep us off the rocks & reefs.
In the present instance we had a passage of forty miles ~~of~~ in width ~~clear space~~ and dangers all near the land, so that there was no cause for more than the usual nervousness.
Bass Straits owes its name to an intrepid explorer who started from Sydney

in a small whale boat, and accomplished a journey of over 600 miles along the south-eastern coast of Australia, in very rough and boisterous weather. He penetrated the eastern part of the Strait and was then seized with the idea that what had been known as Van Diemens land, and supposed to be a part of the continent, was in reality an island. He was unable to prosecute his already too hazardous voyage & returned to Sydney. He afterwards verified his suspicion, in company with Captain Flinders, the great Australian Explorer & surveyor, by reaching the northwestern point of Van Diemen's Land and there viewing the long swells of the Indian ocean as they came in rolling & breaking upon the reefs.

This north-western point of Tasmania as it is now called, is 108 miles from Cape Otway the nearest point of Australia, and midway in this space lies King Island about thirty five miles long, leaving passages on either side between forty and fifty miles in width. But the southern one is dangerous owing to rocks and swift currents and of course we passed through the northern channel. When morning broke we were well into the "Funnel" as the colonists call the Strait, from the constant gales that sweep through it. We could see no

land, but were assured of our position by the soundings and the smoothness of the water. We had now a strong wind from the west carrying us along as fast as the old brig could go and by noon we were in sight of the islands that lie in the middle of the Strait. They were remarkable looking rocks, brown bleak and barren & of curious and striking forms. We hurried by, as no work was required of us here, for the English have made capital surveys of these regions, and we were anxious to get by the last islands and through the Strait by night. ~~Bad~~ With all our efforts we did not do so, but a bright cheering light flashed from Kents Group ~~towards~~ as darkness came on and by its guidance, ~~and~~ the chart and the lead, we passed ~~the~~ out into the Pacific about ten o'clock at night.

A run of about 750 miles, which we made in a short time owing to fair winds & currents, carried us to Lord Howe's Island the first point upon which our efforts as surveyors were to be called forth. We spent a day sailing quietly over the smooth water and choosing positions from which to fix the outlines of the ~~island~~ island and to take the needful astronomical observations. The island is a very remarkable one. At its southern extremity it rises boldly up to a height of 3000 feet and has a square top and ~~with~~ almost perpendicular sides.

It slopes off to the north and in the middle is a little cove or bight abreast of which a vessel might anchor. It is uninhabited. In great contrast to this island lies another about fourteen miles off, and in shape a perfect ~~pyramid~~ pyramid. It ends in a sharp point about 2500 feet from the water and ~~presents~~ seems like an assemblage of ~~ragged and~~ steeple like rocks grey and white with age. These islands lie about 430 miles to the E.N.E. of Sydney. ~~Coming~~

Sailing northwardly we ~~hove to off~~ came in sight of two extensive reefs, Elizabeth and Middleton, the former ninety seven and the latter one hundred and thirty four miles north of Lord Howe's Island. We only hove-to and ran bases for the purpose of ascertaining with precision their latitude and longitude, without examining their extent. Our time was limited and our orders were only to locate the boundaries of a route leading from the ports of Australia to China.

From these reefs northwardly about 4000 miles the sea is clear, and ~~over this space~~ our brig sailed rapidly over this space. The south east trades in all their strength urged us along and we commenced to feel the benign influence of intertropical warmth and clear blue skies.

We were now approaching a region of the globe which is the dread of navigators, and where all our watchfulness and care would be called into play.

So the space which is bounded on the north by the Louisiade Archipelago, on the east by the large island of New Caledonia, on the south by the tropic of Capricorn and on the west by the shores of Australia, Captain Flinders gave the name of the Coral Sea from the multitude of reefs that have been discovered within its precincts. These traps and snares of the ocean, rising ~~[illegible]~~ do almost perpendicularly from ~~[illegible]~~ its depths ~~and [illegible]~~ rendering that usually valuable feeler the lead, useless, ~~[illegible]~~ make navigation in these latitudes perilous in the extreme. Yet the Gold fields of Australia must be reached and that from China and California. Commerce is constantly increasing, and the freighted merchantman anxious to make his passage trusts to poor charts, an old sextant, a nervous vision, and Providence, all of which in many cases do not prevent him from perishing on the treacherous shoals. What would his impatient owners say, or his grumbling crew, if he went creeping along and laying by during the night. The market must be reached, and to get the reputation of an old granny is perhaps fatal to Employment. So on he goes dashing along at headlong speed with all sail set and keeping a bright (?) lookout ahead. But the

breakers are suddenly seen or heard, and before the vessels headway can be checked ~~and~~ or sail reduced she strikes, bilges, and now "sauve-qui-peut!"

There are three routes that may be taken by a ship bound from Sydney to the ports of china. The first lies along the north east coast of Australia inside of the great Barrier Reef, that wonderful chain that ~~stretch~~ stretches along the coast for several hundred miles, and then through Torres Strait that ~~sep~~ separate australia & New Guinea. This passage is one mass of coral reefs and notwithstanding the careful surveys made by the English, must always remain hazardous beyond measure for a sailing vessel. But when safely through ~~these~~ this danger there remains the great Eastern Archipelago with its ~~maze~~ maze of islands & reefs to be threaded.

Another route, but a very roundabout one is to stretch out into the Pacific to the eastward of New Caledonia and there taking advantage of the trades to sweep along through the Caroline Archipelago and thence into the China Sea.

But the "juste-milieu" and the one which we were about to explore, lies through the centre of the Coral Sea, thence between New Guinea and the Solomon Islands into the North Paci-

fii. ~~and so on to~~

The first reef that we visited on the western limit of this route ~~was~~ is was a small irregularly shaped fringe of coral about two and a half miles long and a mile or more wide. In the middle ~~of~~ was a deep tranquil lagoon and in the western part of it an islet of sand, the top of which ~~a~~ was covered with low brush and grass. In 1803 Captain Flinders discovered this reef, when sailing by with a little squadron of three vessels. It was named after the one that first saw it, the Cato. As we approached and scanned the breakers and the islet, the lookout suddenly exclaimed that there was something like a hut and flagstaff upon the bank, and soon after he added that there was a wreck on the outer edge of the reef. Of course all was excitement at the prospect of rescuing the crew of some unfortunate vessel, and every eye was strained as we rapidly approached. We soon made out the hull of what might have been a ship of five hundred tons lying on her side and heels over towards the reef. Masts were gone and nothing was to be seen but the naked hull. On the islet was a wooden hut with something like a cross or sign post erected near it. Nearer the water was a tent covering a row of casks or

heeled

barrels, and part of the sail of which it was formed had been loosened and was fluttering in the wind. We soon were near enough to have distinguished men had there been any, but our most vivid imaginations could not discern one. A boat was lowered to endeavor to obtain a landing and discover if there had been anything left to identify the wreck. But the boat found no means of getting through the boiling surf and was obliged to come away unsatisfied. They went near enough however to have distinguished a man's features, but nothing human showed itself and the only life seen was an immense flock of sea birds that hovered over the islet ~~deaf~~ deafening ~~filling~~ the ~~ear~~ ear with their cries.

We filled away and sailed sadly past, deeply impressed with the dangers that surrounded us, and I venture to say that Jack kept a good look out at night during the rest of our passage through the Coral sea, if he had never done so before. Had the weather been otherwise than beautiful and fair, our ~~spirits~~ spirits would have been much depressed.

Marryatt tells ~~us~~ of an old quartermaster who on entering the English channel with its fogs and cloudy skies, after a cruise in the best

and left her consorts to their fate! The crews of the wrecked vessels were several weeks upon the little islet, while Captain Flinders went to Sydney a ~~dis~~ distance of about 700 miles, in an open boat, and procured assistance.

Leaving the scenes of these disasters we steered towards Kenn's Reef lying to the northward and eastward of us, and by sundown were exactly on top of it. Do not suppose that we were ~~grin~~ grinding on the rocks and surrounded by foaming breakers. Thank Heaven no. We were just over the position assigned to it on the chart, and as night came on every eye was on the alert to discover it if we could. But darkness ~~co~~ soon enveloped ~~us~~ our brig, leaving us in an unenviable position. For as the reef was not where it ~~ought to be~~ should have been, we could not ~~tell~~ possibly conjecture how far we might be from it, and in what direction. Of its existence somewhere here abouts our data rendered us certain. A ship lying-to in a strong wind does not remain perfectly stationary ~~a~~ but drifts and sometimes as fast as a mile an hour. [For all we knew therefore, we might have been drifting right on to it.] So there we lay all night rolling and creaking ~~and~~ and watching anxiously ~~an~~ with eye and ear. About midnight the water suddenly became smooth and an old quarter master asserted stoutly that he heard breakers. We all turned out and listened but no one else could

~~make~~ hear them, and as he was rather an imaginative old fellow, we turned in again. When morning broke at last, sure enough, there was a roaring crescent of rocks, sand banks and breakers right to windward. We were completely Embayed. How we got there I never could divine. On this reef too were several wrecks. It was a terrible looking place, for the seas broke over it in green foaming combers with thundering noise. We sailed away with pleasure from the spot after having ascertained its correct position, and steered across for the eastern limit of the channel. This is its narrowest part, being about 120 miles wide and bounded on both sides by reefs such as we had seen.

Bampton shoal was the last of these nautical horrors that we saw, and as if to leave a good impression on us of the wonderful ~~extent~~ ~~exte~~ expanse of these coral structures, it was the most extensive of all. It is an enormous reef in shape like a horse shoe and ~~occu~~ ~~transversing~~ is over ~~60 miles~~ sixty miles long. As we gazed on it from aloft it stretched far away from us white and dazzling in the sun, and here and there black knobs peered up, called nautically Negro heads, but more appropriately I should say, Demon's heads.

We had now examined the most dangerous part of our route and from here to the southeastern point of the Louisiade Archipelago, there was but one reported reef. This we looked for in vain and ~~tra-~~ ~~versed its latitude~~ sailed east and west in the parallel assigned to it and might have found it perhaps in time, but we had to be "moving on" and as we had cleared a considerable space as it were for those who chose to follow our track, we ~~turned~~ turned again northward, continuing to have fine steady and strong winds with clear Italian skies.

So far we had found the route perfectly safe and ~~practicable~~ practicable. The channel is not obstructed, for as you sail by in the Coral Sea, the reefs lie sixty or more miles on either hand. The constant trade winds that blow carry you swiftly by and you are assisted by a slight current with the wind. The sun shines brightly nearly all the time giving ample opportunity for astronomical observations.

Having traversed a clear sea of about 400 miles in length and enjoyed ~~the~~ most ~~luxu~~ luxurious ~~weather~~ with fine fair trades and a smooth sea, we were approaching a region of Tropical Australasia in which are situated some of the most magnificent islands in the Western Pacific. Many navigators have visited this portion of the globe, but few have left authentic and official information concerning its geography. The number of the islands, with their general extent and appearance are well ascertained, and probably but few remain ~~probably~~ to be discovered. But the anxious navigator about to pass through the seas and channels formed by ~~this~~ an extensive archipelago needs more than vague geographical outlines. Accurate latitudes and longitudes, nautical descriptions of coasts, anchorages, and hidden dangers, together with observations on prevailing winds and currents are to him almost indispensable, for without them his progress is as that of one in the dark. ~~In his extremity he~~ Equally the stranger has recourse to books of sailing directions accounts of voyages and charts. But for the seas before us such guides ~~are~~ are very scarce, and but meagre in their information. The French navigators and in particular Admiral D'Urville have done the most towards ~~facilitating~~ satisfying the wants of seamen in these regions. But even ~~he has done~~ ~~left~~ the ~~great~~ French admiral, who met with ~~those unfortunate~~

such an unfortunate fate on the termination of his voyages, has left much to be done, and his longitudes are not all quite correct.

The immense island of Papua, over 1200 miles ~~long~~ in length, and whose interior like that of Ethiopia must remain ~~a long while~~ for many years a mystery, stretches out ~~in~~ a long arm to the south east which finally breaks up into a chain of mountainous isles fringed with coral reefs. This chain, named the Louisiade archipelago, terminates ~~in~~ at ~~[illegible]~~ Rossel island, which is ~~an~~ high and mountainous and forms a beautiful point to steer for.

To the eastward and running parallel to this ~~Louisiade~~ archipelago lies a range of large islands which were discovered in 1568 by Mendana, who taking it for granted that the ~~country~~ splendid island abounded in gold, imagined, or pretended to imagine that here Solomon had obtained all his riches & accordingly named them after that sapient King. This chain forms the eastern boundary of a sea about 600 miles long and 180 wide ~~running~~ lying north ~~east~~ west and south ~~east~~ east and partially closed at its northwestern extremity by two large islands named according to the barbarous fashion of the early English navigators, New Ireland and New Britain. The widest outlet to the sea lies between New Ireland and the last of the Solomon group. The channel is here 90 miles ~~wide~~ wide and lies almost

due north of the Rossel Island extremity of the Louisiade chain.

Our route therefore ~~lay~~ passed from this last point through the middle of the Papua sea, as it has been proposed to call it, and through the aforesaid channel into the open Pacific. It would be too much to ask the general reader to turn to a map, but should an interested seamen chance to see these pages, I would ask him to glance at his ~~ge~~ general chart and he will find that the path that I have traced is the clearest and most direct from the eastern coast of Australia towards China. And see what an undotted ~~unspotted~~ space and what a chance for fine runs lies from New Ireland to the Bashees. With the ~~single~~ exception of a few days of doldrums in the Papua sea we had dashing trades every inch of the way.

But back to my narrative. As we advanced towards Rossel Island we gradually lost the generous winds that had favored us so long, until on the morning that we sighted ~~the~~ its ~~fair~~ verdant peaks the breeze died entirely away. We were left becalmed upon a glassy sea a few miles from the land as if to give us ~~and were left~~ those of us ~~to enjoy~~ who ~~had never~~ now saw one of the famed gems of the Pacific for the first time, ample opportunity to enjoy its beauties.

With a glass we ~~could~~ were enabled to

study all the brilliancy of the wild vegetation. The centre of the island rose about 3,000 feet from the sea and from its summit to the waters edge was one dense mass of magnificent foliage. No beach intervened between the trees and the water, and from the clear smooth sea to the fleecy clouds, all was green. We were reminded that the island was inhabited by curling wreaths of blue smoke that rose lazily from among groves of cocoa nut trees. As we lay becalmed drifting ~~down~~ ~~Kwing~~ in all the luxuries of the scene, every thing seemed so quiet and inviting, we could hardly believe that any one should have been glad to escape from these regions as Bougainville was about ninety years ago. He had got into the Papua sea ~~amongst~~ Entangled in the archipelago to which he gave the name of Louisiade, and was so terrified by the multitude~~s~~ of islands and reefs that when he passed the island before us and found himself in the open sea he in gratitude christened it Cape Deliverance.

Light airs and favorable currents gradually carried us to the north and we lost sight of these attractive shores. Our way through the Papua sea was very tedious. We were ten days going a distance of 390 miles, and to aggravate the ~~tedium~~ tedium of this slow progress, water and provisions commenced to get low. We had been 80 days from

port and our little buoy could not stow more than three months water. The captain felt it necessary to husband our resources and we were reduced from ~~to five~~ ~~five~~ a daily allowance of a gallon to five pints of water per ~~day.~~ man. As this was all the fresh water we could have for all purposes and as the thermometer stood at 80° day and night and sometimes at noon 100°, we felt great inconvenience. To tantalize us we read accounts of the torrents of rain so common in these latitudes and very often the most threatening and appalling masses of ~~rainbows~~ storm clouds would accumulate around us but not a drop of rain would ~~reach us~~ come. The crew suffered much more than the officers, for with their natural improvidence they would sometimes drink up all their allowance before midday. Their grog tea and sugar and other luxuries had all given out. And yet we were still 3300 ~~to~~ miles from China! Luckily ~~and upon this we were calculating~~ ~~harbor of refuge~~ we knew ~~there~~ ~~was~~ of a snug little harbor at the Northern extremity of New Ireland, ~~of which we ha~~ and upon ~~they~~ the relief to be afforded by this harbor of refuge we had calculated all the voyage. It seemed though, as if we would never get there, and all our efforts to keep up our spirits and be cheerful were of no avail. "New York Bill" one of the boatswain's mates who had kept the crew alive, sang no more songs, ~~nor~~ and

the "Surveying chronicle"
a paper which he had started, was not ~~long~~ regularly issued. With us the guitar and flute were no longer heard, and even ~~Stein~~ ~~cracked no more jokes~~ Stein's chokes were few and far between.

At last one morning we discovered the high lands of Tombara. Such is the native name of New Ireland according to ~~Duppes~~ Duppernery, and altthough the inhabitants ~~natives~~ that we met did not seem to recognize it, any thing ~~name~~ is better than the stupid style of nomenclature adopted by the English navigators.

Tombara is nearly 200 miles long and its greatest length is parallel to the general trend of the Solomon islands, but at its eastern end it makes an elbow to the south ~~forming~~ terminating in Cape St. George. Here it is separated from the last of the Solomon chain by the ~~a chaon~~ channel, ~~20~~ 90 miles wide, above ~~with~~ spoken of, & to the west by St. George's channel from the splendid island of New Britain. All these islands are mountainous and the ridge of ~~New Ireland~~ Tombara is between 3000 and 4000 feet high. The shores are bold and abrupt and ~~all~~ the hills are clothed with the richest verdure. ~~The inhabitants are wild~~ We knew but little of the nature of the inhabitants and from the information we had on board were led to believe that very few navigators had visited the harbor ~~to~~ which we were so anxious to reach.

As the day advanced ~~sun rose~~ a breeze sprang up ~~we commenced to~~

from the west and before noon we had a regular succession of squalls. The wind was right against us & we had a dead beat to enable us to reach the harbor. The northern tacks would take us close into the land under Cape St. George where for a moment we would feast upon the luxuries of the stately forests & the inviting groves. Another tack would carry us out into a chopping sea & mists of rain would hide us from the land. At last towards sundown the last tack pointed to windward of the Cape & trusting to the chart made by our predecessors we rapidly advanced towards the harbor. As yet we had distinguished no opening which would indicate one, but very soon we were in a deep channel formed by the promontory & a lovely islet. Feeling now secure of our position by the correspondence of the shores with its delineations on the chart we commenced taking in sail, knowing that on rounding a point we would be in the cove where our anchor must be dropped. There would be no room to run on very far and as yet no bottom had been reached by the hand lead. Clewing up everything we suddenly put the helm a-port and darted round the point into a completely sheltered & enchanting cove. The anchor dropped from its support & splashing into the tranquil waters dragged out the chain at a thundering rate & after a few surges and tugs & with desperate holding on of

sixpences, our brig swung round to the wind and as if by one consent every one ~~left~~ suspended their ~~their~~ work & ~~heaving~~ drawing long breaths of relief & comfort looked round ~~room~~ in silence on the glorious scene around ~~out~~ them. High above our head rose the resplendent forests & close around us on every side spread the inviting shores shutting out completely the sea & its wearisome swells. Myriads of birds startled by the rattling of the cable filled ~~had~~ the air with their novel cries. Parrots wild Pigeons & large white birds something like macaws flew constantly over us to & fro. Doozen was beside himself with joy & was vexed at being unable to go right ashore with his gun & revel in his favorite pastime. In the midst of our admiration of the scene & just as we were turning away to resume the work about decks ~~& loud~~ ~~heard~~ a loud and re-echoing whoop rose among the woods astern of us. We gazed at one another ~~and there looking at the~~ & Doozen exclaimed "What kind of bird is that for heaven's sake!"

"No bird gave that cry" said the Doctor pointing to the narrow strip of beach where the vigorous vegetation disputed possession with the water. And sure enough as he spoke three pair of dark legs were seen running by. In another moment the whole forms were visible & coming down close to the water at the nearest point to the vessel, our

Eyes were ~~recompensed~~ regaled by the ~~a~~ sight of three real original and naked savages. No one can appreciate the delight we experienced at seeing these miserable beings, who has not gone through the horrid tedium of three months at sea in a tub – Few of us had Ever before been in the Pacific & Everything was novel and delightful. The sun had gone down & darkness was fast approaching but we gazed on those natives to the last moment – The gloom ~~rendered~~ gave them ~~very~~ a ~~picturesque~~ mystery & wildness which was Enhanced by their frantic behavior. They waved their arms, shouted, tore off boughs ~~from the~~ & ~~waved~~ brandished them in the air and danced around the beach – We returned their salutations & at last night hid them from us & we turned to seek the repose we so much needed and which is so delicious in a tranquil harbor after having been Endlessly rolled and pitched about –

The morning found us refreshed and anxious to visit the shore. As our principal object in visiting the harbor was to fill up with wood and water, a boat was immediately prepared to land & Examine the facilities for procuring them. There was of course a rush ~~to~~ for the privilege of ~~manning~~ going in that boat and it was ready in a very few minutes. The Master was in ~~charge~~ charge & Doozen & the Doctor with their ornithological apparatus obtained leave to go.

Our good Captain was a little doubtful of the character of the savages & having received a severe lesson in Wilkes' Expedition where two officers were murdered, he insisted upon our going thoroughly armed. The brigs guns were also loaded with grape & another boat prepared to run to our assistance in case of need. We shoved off & pulled first for the point forming the cove & then skirted along the reef that fringed it searching for the signs of fresh water. The savages who had watched our movements & now saw us approaching set up a shout & came running toward us. We found an opening in the reef astern of the brig & pulling in ran the boat up on a beautiful but narrow strip of sand beach. Our landing was effected without resistance inasmuch as there were nine of us overloaded with the most deadly weapons of civilized warfare, and there were five natives naked as the day they were born & completely unarmed. The leading savage timidly approached & shaked hands. He was evidently alarmed at our warlike appearance. As soon as the first glances of curiosity had passed ~~as opened~~ the Doctor opened the conversation by attempting to inquire of the gaping aborigines as to the locality of fresh water. This he did in the most approved manner by standing erect & gazing fixedly at the savage then ~~and~~ raising his hand ~~as if grasp-~~ to his lips and as if grasping ~~a grasping~~ a cup, ~~to his lips~~, he threw his head gradually back, until his Eyes met the

zenith, when ~~smack~~ smacking his lips & making a noise in his throat somewhat like the death rattle, his head resumed the perpendicular & motioning gracefully to the surrounding woods the evolution was complete – Now inasmuch as it was our firm belief that we were in a harbor little if ever visited & where ~~yet~~ ~~much~~ no ~~man~~ navigator had been before us since ~~the~~ Captain Duperrey of the French Navy in 182– you may imagine we were somewhat startled when this extremely wild & ferocious islander responded in tolerable English "Water plenty, good water"!" He led us a few feet back from the beach & there amid the wildest & most luxuriant vegetation was a placid little pond fed by a rivulet that ~~lost itself amid the dense wood~~ ~~that~~ comes ~~leaping~~ leaping ~~Came~~ down the side of the hill but ~~hidden~~ hidden from our sight by the dense wood. Finding everything as convenient as possible the boat returned to report leaving the ornithologists slaying parrots & wild pigeons. As the pond was right astern of the big and as from the steepness of the bottom we were ~~a~~ obliged to anchor close to the shore we ran out a hawser & hauled in within a ~~length~~ length or two & ~~and~~ made fast. By means of a ~~force pump~~ little engine known as a "handy Billy" or more classically, a "Convenient William" ~~more~~ we could pump right from the pond into the casks in the launch which would then be hauled off & emptied – So in this manner & in this quiet se-

cluded nook watering was an easy matter ~~to fill with water~~ — As to wood the only difficulty was to find room to handle the axe. ~~Every sized tree from saplings to~~ There were no fruit trees but ~~Every~~ many species of choice cabinet woods abounded, ~~some~~ the whole forming a dense forest covering the hills that rose abruptly from the shore to a height of some six or seven hundred feet immediately around us, while back into the interior, range after range ascended to peaks two or three thousand feet ~~high~~ high.

Port Praslin is situated on the western side of the southern promontory of Tombara and is a little cove which in its relation to the cape is much like the barb of a fish hook. Abreast of it and completing the shelter lies a green islet and as a vessel is forced to go to the very ~~bottom~~ corner of the "barb" in order to get bottom, when once there she is completely land locked. ~~There~~ The only ~~one~~ objection ~~to the~~ that ~~struck~~ struck us was the difficulty of ~~getting~~ getting underway with a west wind which blows directly in. For in such a narrow & confined spot, beating is out of the question & the great steepness of the bottom renders kedging ~~impracticable~~ impracticable. ~~Some during~~ During half the year, from December to May, strong westerly winds prevail while during the other half they blow from the southeast. ~~Port~~ This harbor would therefore be safest in the months of the southeast monsoon while during the other a vessel could find the same conveniences in a little cove on the opposite side of the cape which will be more particularly described farther on. Port Praslin was named by Bougainville in honor of the Minister of Marine

under whose administration the first expedition for a voyage around the world was fitted out by the French. It has been visited by several distinguished navigators & as we discovered from the natives, whalers, & traders for tortoise shell frequently stop there. Its position according to our observations is in Lat. 4°.51' S and Long. 152°.52' E.

The natives who came down to see us live in a village in the cove on the opposite side of the Cape & came by a path over the hills. ~~There were~~ ~~not~~ never more than 20 or 30 came at a time, ~~&~~ & they generally brought cocoa nuts, bananas, yam, taro & pieces of Tortoise shell. They were very cunning at a trade appearing to understand the value of ~~things~~ what was offered them. Chewing tobacco, gaudy handkerchiefs & knives were the ~~gre~~ great articles of demand. They are ~~a~~ miserable ~~race~~ creatures weak & disgusting in appearance. & evidently ~~They~~ belong to the ~~tribe~~ race of Papuan negroes. They go completely naked, their only dress consisting of small sticks of wood stuck through the lobes of their ears. All had woolly mops of hair, some colored red & others white with lime. Many are additionally disfigured by a ~~skin disease~~ ~~which covers them~~ cutaneous disorder exceedingly unpleasant to behold.

The second day after our arrival we were visited by "King Dick" the sovereign of Likiliki. He was a

little older & uglier than the rest & the only distinguishing mark on him was a bracelet of ivory on his left arm. He was treated with respect though not obsequiously, by his subjects, & ~~tir~~ the principal object of his visit was to obtain presents from us for the privilege of visiting his dominions — In a bamboo basket, answering the purposes of a ladies reticule, he had slips of paper carefully wrapped up, which had been left with him by the captains of other ships, giving their names & ~~particulars~~ mentioning what they had presented to ~~the kingpin~~ his majesty — Although we had by this time discovered that ~~aptitude~~ the natives knew many words of English and were very sharp in their negotiations we were not ~~prepared~~ prepared for the display which King Dick gave us of his knowledge of ~~the~~ our usages. We had invited his naked highness into the wardroom & he had seated himself in a chair in a very complacent manner when ~~he~~ after having ~~waited~~ gazed patiently though not wonderingly around him he said "Cigar!" Of course we handed him one and he then ~~said~~ asked for "Fire!" ~~This amused us very much and we could hardly believe it seemed very strange~~ We could not help being astonished to hear these wild, uncouth, primitive, looking beings, in this solitary port thousands of miles away from all haunts of the whites using such familiar phrases. But when after having taken a few puffs he looked around uneasily at the white deck & then

said "spit-box!" we could not resist a shout. We had entered the port with convictions that we were to meet with warlike, savage cannibals with whom we might have difficulty, & instead ~~we~~ had found peacable, indolent & ~~com~~ harmless wretches. But such is not by far the character of all the natives of the neighboring islands. The inhabitants at Port Praslin are evidently isolated from the other tribes in the interior of the island & as the ~~harbor affords such~~ facilities which the harbor affords have been discovered by whalers & ~~others~~ others their visits have changed the character of this little people. The race which inhabits the islands in the western Pacific are notoriously wild & treacherous, and there are too many instances of ~~their~~ savageness ~~to~~ of their character —

There is a cascade a short distance up the hill from which stream our pond was fed - We enjoyed highly the scramble to this secluded spot. The dense forest which is continually watered by the deluges of rain which fall almost all the year ~~round~~, & is cooled & moistened by the constant evaporation, & the intermingling branches overhead form a complete protection from the sun. ~~The sensation was delicious in those solitudes & our was &~~ Amid these wild and about two hundred yards up the hill the torrent leaps over huge masses

of rock & forms a pretty succession of cascades. In one place the water has worn away a basin in the rock some forty feet in circumference & two or three deep. Here we plunged in & revelled in the abundance of cool fresh water ~~so delicious~~ such a luxury after our hot, parching voyage. Our rambles were necessarily circumscribed and altho' the savages intimated that there was a path over the hills to their village no one cared particularly to plunge into the labyrinthes of the sombre forest in company with such questionable friends. But a party of us took a boat and started on an Expedition around the Cape to the village of Likiliki. Our pull was a long one though far from tedious ~~affording~~ for our taste for the beautiful was constantly stimulated by glimpses of lovely scenery. The blue mountains of New Britain in the south-west were beautifully distinct ~~while~~ and the changing slopes & coves of Tombara along ~~under~~ which we glided ~~with kept our the~~ ~~sense~~ tasts ~~& for the beautiful constantly~~ afforded us ample subjects of admiration.

We reached the village in about an hour and a half & found it snugly & most enchantingly ~~ensconced~~ hidden away in thick groves of cocoa nuts & large shade trees, on a strip ~~of~~ or neck of land connecting a high bluff rocky peninsula with the main. It was admirably situated especially for defence, and as we were led to ~~bla~~ believe they were at war with a neighbouring

tribe, seemed intentionally so. We landed on a fine sand beach where we were met by several of the natives. They all had bunches of fruit & stalks of sugar cane in their hands evidently meaning that they hoped we had only come to buy & would return. But we wished to see their village. ~~& thus~~ Leaving the boat in charge of three men we addressed ourselves to Cambay King Dick's premier, for the latter was away at Port Mariu, & invited ourselves to see the lions of Lekilikii. Nearly all the savages remained ~~by~~ ~~crow~~ crowded around the boat & while we walked amongst the huts we had visions of ambuscades, & being cut off from our boat. The solitude of the village ~~dur~~ rather added to our caution, for every hut was deserted & every ~~thing~~ one seemed to be ~~hidden~~ hidden away in the bushes. The ~~houses~~ habitations were well thatched huts with low entrances. The ground ~~around~~ around each was firmly beaten down & every hut was surrounded by low stone walls, not over a foot high, & within some were little cultivated patches. We looked in vain for women & children. We made further efforts to persuade Cambay to invite his wife or wives to come & see us. He would grunt in answer but do nothing. Once we had evidently come suddenly upon a party for we heard a ~~gre~~ great rustling among the bushes & turning just got a glimpse of several women scampering off with their babies on their

backs & modestly holding palm leaves behind as they ran.
We were shown the Hippar or City Hall. It was a large hut ~~some~~ about forty feet by twenty situated within a circular Enclosure of some 70 or 80 feet in diameter, interspersed & surrounded by tall Cocoa nut trees, & the intermediate ground levelled and smoothed off as hard as stone. The ~~Hap~~ Hippar itself had many low Entrances & around the walls inside were suspended spears, war clubs & musical instruments & at one End was a grotesque idol about three or four feet high.
We were next pointed out King Dicks house which seemed as better than the others, but it had a higher wall around it. Here too we surprised a party of females. As we understood Cambay they were the Kings two wives and daughters. They were very much alarmed but could not run away. We attempted to show our benevolent intentions by smiles & presents but when Steen approached & politely offered a bright navy button to one of the Princesses she fairly shrieked with fright. They were uglier than any thing human I had ever before seen. Their hair was ~~cutted short~~ cut short & their faces tatoed, and their dress was only a <u>leetle</u> more modest than that of the men, being a little more than nothing — Having seen all we could of Likilikii we turned to go, Evidently to the relief of

the inhabitants. We filled the boat with Cocoa nuts & bananas & bidding adieu to Cambay & his suite we shoved off. But before leaving the little harbor we ~~sounded~~ ran several lines of soundings. We were surprised to find a sandy bottom free from coral and shelving very gradually to sea. We found that a vessel could anchor in nine fathoms and not be too near to the beach. During the months of the westerly monsoon this would therefore be a much superior anchorage to that of Port Praslin ~~as~~ for ~~from~~ the wind being off shore a vessel could get underway at any moment. In the western part of the cove there empties a deep and tranquil little river whose mouth is blocked up with rocks. But a few steps back it deepens and widens and meandering along the base of a high wooded hill its ~~bar~~ ~~shut~~ farther course is shut out by the woods. We took deep draughts of the cool fresh water & all agreed that a vessel could fill her casks ~~with water~~ at this stream with as much ease as at Port Praslin. While examining the river two armed natives suddenly came upon us. They were startled but soon recovered their composure. They belonged to the village & had been on an Expedition — They pointed to the north East where the land is low & wooded for some distance back, by

intimated that their Enemies lived in that direction. I questioned one as to his mode of fighting. He understood me instantly, for throwing himself into an ~~attitude~~ attitude he balanced his spear in his right hand ~~while~~ and then launched ~~threw~~ it with great force at his imaginary Enemy. Then seizing his club with both hands he rushed in & beat about him with great vigor, and having slaughtered his adversary he turned to me & quietly remarked, "Cook him - Eat him!" - ~~Shortly after we gave over the day having~~ Being warned by the lateness of the day that it was time to go, & not being particularly desirous of spending a night in Likiliki we started on our return & after a long & tedious pull against wind & sea off Cape St. George, we finally reached the Brig to the delight of our Skipper who had been very uneasy during our absence. The next morning we took advantage of a light & exceptional puff from the land to waft out of the harbor & got clear of the cape just in time to ~~call~~ catch a tremendous squall from the west which hurried us along on our route to new points of observation.

A little to the north of the line that joins the South Cape of Lombara and the northern ~~cape~~ one of the Solomon chain ~~islands~~ lie two low islands called the "Isles Bertes" by D'Urville. It was necessary to verify the position of these

so we ran for their northern Extremity and doubling that ~~ran~~ coasted along their Eastern shore. They are low & perfectly flat & completely covered with trees. There is a passage between the two, which is said to be obstructed with reefs, but we could see none from the mast head. It was Evening before we reached the south eastern point & we were about hauling off when we espied a native canoe paddling towards us. We hove-to & waited for them, but when within a short distance they rested & kept aloof appearing afraid to come alongside. We beckoned and waved white handkerchiefs ~~& beckoned~~ & did all in our power to induce them to approach until at last they seemed ~~to~~ satisfied & paddled up to the gangway. There were six men and all fine, coal black, vigorous looking fellows. Their features were regular & there was a fire & Energy in their eyes which contrasted greatly with the ~~ab~~ Enervated & degenerate look of the inhabitants of Liki'liki. The leader who appeared to be a chief from the number of coral bracelets upon his arm ~~was a~~ had particularly handsome features for one so like a negro in color. ~~of that color~~. His wool was combed out & "mopped" up quite tastefully. ~~These~~ From the Eagerness of these people to trade we judged they had had but little ~~intercourse~~ intercourse with whites. They seized

Everything with avidity, Even to old tin cans, in Exchange for the fruit & pigs which they had brought. Their canoe was a frail thing & they had come at least four miles. While alongside & in the ~~Eager~~ battle of trade, their boat nearly filled ~~with~~ with water, whereupon all but one jumped out & they supported the boat until he had bailed it out. Their expertness at getting in again without upsetting the canoe was very curious. Night came on & we left them, paddling back to their home which we all hoped they reached in safety for ~~they~~ their ~~had~~ ~~fearless~~ the absence of all cunning in their behavior had excited our interest & ~~they~~ we had ~~generous~~ enjoyed a rich treat from their young & delicious cocoa nuts.

The next day we sighted the north cape of Bouka the last of the Solomon islands - This ~~point~~ cape forms the Eastern point of the ~~outlet~~ channel which leads into the open Pacific & is nearly in the same latitude as Cape St. George of Tombara, being 108 miles East of it. The northern part of Bouka is comparatively low & flat but in the interior, cone like blue mountains rise to great elevations. The woody shores & groves of cocoa nuts looked very inviting & we saw lazy wreaths of smoke curling up from among them, but we had

~~heard~~ been dreadful accounts of the natives & were not sorry at being unable to land. One navigator reports that ~~whole~~ whale boats have been attacked, ~~by~~ when far away from their ships by crowd of armed canoes off their inhospitable Bonka. And again, that several ~~vessels~~ vessels have been captured by the natives of the Solomon Archipelago and their whole crews massacred — In some cases boats have landed & the crews gone a ~~short~~ short distance from the beach ~~also~~ without ~~seeing~~ seeing a soul, when suddenly hundreds have rushed out & the men have with difficulty regained their boats, often with the loss of several lives. But it is too true that in almost all cases amongst the islands of the Pacific the inhospitality & savageness of the inhabitants has been originally produced by wanton oppression on the part of ~~the~~ ~~whaler~~ intemperate & brutal seamen — Between Tombara & Bonka we found a strong current of perhaps an average rate of a knot an hour running to the north east, and it increased in strength as we approached Cape Nutt. Having fixed the latitude & longitude of the latter point we steered to the north & about ~~100 miles~~ a hundred miles from the last land we sighted the Abgarris Islands, about three and a half degrees south of the Equator. Finding this small cluster pretty accurately

fixed on the French chart we ~~a~~ kept on & commenced a struggle against wind & current to get to the westward in order to sight the Lyra shoal about 128 miles distant. The westerly monsoons had now fairly set in & what with constant squalls, astonishing torrents of rain & a current of a knot an hour against us we had a pretty hard time. Our poor tub groaned & plunged into it & tack after tack was made. ~~Every~~ Each day at noon we would find that we had barely made 24 miles. The 4th of February had come & we were to be in Macao by the 10th or thereabouts, and were still 2500 miles from it. The Lyra shoal was therefore given up & ~~with relief~~ we felt the relaxation in the tension on our spirits when the order was given to brace in a little & keep off for the Equator. | The transition from the westerly gales through the belt of calms into the North East trades was effected with remarkable speed. ~~in comparison with the~~ The strong winds suddenly left us. A day of calm & light airs succeeded. Then imposing & enormous ~~masses of~~ storm clouds gathered round us. None of us had ever before seen such impenetrable inky masses. They closed around & shut out every ray of sun light, and it was deep night at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Not knowing what to expect

we prepared for a hurricane & all stood silently on deck gazing in awe upon the sombre scene. At last it burst upon us. But not wind. We did not have a breath of it. But deluging & astounding torrents of rain beat us down panting as if beneath a cataract. It nearly sunk us & ~~[illegible]~~ ~~could~~ in our leaky state there was not a thing left dry. Thus it rained nearly all night, then came a pause. and a light air came creeping from the north East. They soon grew into a breeze & before another day had passed we were dashing along to the north west as fast as our big could tear through the water. Thus we kept up our pace without a pause in the glorious breeze. We skirted along some distance from the outer verge of the Caroline Archipelago, ~~thus~~ ~~and~~ but and ~~on~~ sighted only two ~~groups~~ of its islands which were immediately in our way, the Kama Isles very small & not over two or three miles in length and the Island of Ocaps. This last is of considerable size and the little we saw of it * Together with what we read ~~increased our~~ made us regret exceedingly the circumstances which prevented a thorough Exploration & protracted stay. We ran close along the shores, ~~nearly~~ almost ~~circumnavigated~~ around it, and had a beautiful opportunity

~~to make~~ of making a careful ~~and~~ nautical survey of the outlines of the shores.
The island is about ~~18~~ thirteen miles in length lying north by east and south by west. It is six and a half miles in width at its widest part and is hilly in the centre sloping down gradually to the water. Its southern point is in Lat. 9° 26' N and Long. 138° 06' E. Coral reefs fringe its shores and off the southern end the reef extends out a mile or more forming a dangerous point. On the southeastern side is a good anchorage protected by the reefs and ~~a~~ near to a village called Tomal. The only account of the island of which we were in possession is given by a Captain Cheyne, an Englishman, who traded for many years among the islands and who visited Ouap to procure "biche de mer" which is obtained in large quantities off the reefs. His ~~ac-~~ ~~data~~ data ~~are~~ seem very accurate and all that came within our observation verified his statements.
The villages are all situated near the shore among groves of cocoa nut bread fruit & betel nut trees. The houses are well built and quite large and are constructed of bamboo & wicker work. Captain Cheyne says that the villages are regularly laid out in streets & neatly paved & that they have well constructed stone wharves and piers.
The intercourse with traders has undoubtedly

civilized most of the inhabitants of the western Caroline Islands & the Spanish from the ~~Manilas & Philip. Phillippine~~ Philippine Islands in particular must frequently find their way to Ocaap, for two or three of the natives that boarded us understood a few words of Spanish & knew how to count in that language.

The moment our Brig approached the shore & even when some miles off numerous boats started out under sail to come off to us. Only one or two were allowed to come alongside & to one large one we threw a rope & towed her after us as we ran on our bases. This canoe was the admiration of all. It was formed of planks sewed together, very long and very narrow. It curved up at either extremity & was ~~sharpened~~ sharp or wedge like. It must have been forty or fifty feet long and only three ~~or~~ wide. But amidships and extending out many feet on either side ~~was~~ was a large platform laid over long stout bamboos lashed securely athwartships. At the extremities of these, ~~crossed pieces~~ and ~~sixty~~ six or seven feet from the hull of the canoe short pieces at right angles joined long buoyant logs lying in the water parallel to the length of the canoe. These outriggers kept the boat steady & admitted of the number of men which were on the platform. We counted twenty five — In such vessels they make voyages to other islands in the Archipelago

How they navigate is a mystery, for they go a hundred & more miles, & from the small size of the islands, in many cases mere dots on the deep, they must steer very accurate & straight courses to reach the desired land.

We were struck with the contrast between the personal appearance of these islanders & the natives of Tombara. These were very handsome in comparison. Their color was that of a bright copper cent. There was nothing of the negro in their features & their hair was long & straight. Their dress was a little more protecting than that of the Tombareae for they all wear the maro or covering around the loins. One of the chiefs in the canoe was a remarkably handsome man. He was tall graceful & elegantly formed. His nose was straight, nostrils thin & eyes coal black. His hair which was long and fine was tastefully tied up & the whole confined in a net on one side of his head, and from which a long feather of some handsome bird bent gracefully over. On his arm was a white ivory bracelet (a sign of nobility) and around his neck hanging over his breast was a necklace of green beads & pieces of red coral. His maro was light blue. He was not tatoed anywhere, altho many of his companions were.

Unfortunately none of the women were aquatic ally inclined, but by Captain Cheyne's account I should judge they were not so

they as the women of Likiliki.
Captain Cheyne says many of them are handsome & that they wear bushy petticoats & mantillas, which ~~protecting~~ protects them from the weather ~~sun~~ ~~gives them a lighter~~. They seldom do any out door work but stay at home & manage their household affairs.
But notwithstanding the more favorable appearance of the Quakese as compared to the Tombareen and the savage natives of the Solomon group, ~~the accounts of their treachery & desire for plunder~~ are well there are melancholy proofs of their treachery and desire for plunder - About twenty years ago two Spanish vessels from Manilla visited the island to procure cargoes of biche-de-mer. ~~Now ten to one that you know nothing of this~~ This article you probably know is greatly prized in China as an article of food and brings very high prices. Its scientific name is the Holothuria belonging to the class Radiata. It is a species of what is commonly called the sea slug and has a gelatinous slimy ~~looking in shape~~ appearance, and is in shape something like a cucumber. ~~There are a variety of kinds differing in quality & value. Their color are different and~~ There are a variety of kinds differing in color quality & value. ~~The~~ It is collected from the reefs & sandy bottoms & then subjected to a curing process in huts built for the purpose. ~~and~~ It is boiled and dried & then

stowed away in bags on board. ~~the vessels~~
To proceed
~~to~~, these vessels, one a brig with a crew of fifty men & the other a schooner with forty, and both armed, came to the Island of Ocaf for the purpose of collecting & curing cargoes of this esteemed article for the Chinese tables. The natives assisted them in erecting curing houses and they soon had parties at work at different parts of the island. The schooner after having stayed a few days was sent off to another island & the ~~Bay~~ brig remained. A plot was then formed by the natives to massacre the shore parties & the few that remained on board, at the same time. The thing was so well conducted that the unfortunate Spaniards were completely surprised. The chiefs of the village of Tomal off which the brig was lying repaired on board ~~with~~ at the appointed time. They were nineteen in all & had no other weapons but short clubs of iron wood concealed in their betel ~~nut~~ nut baskets, which they usually carry with them. They repaired on board in a friendly manner & waiting until the crew were off ~~their~~ their guard, they ~~rushed~~ rushed on them & ~~murdered~~ slaughtered the whole, including the captain who was asleep on the quarter deck. The shore parties ~~were~~ shared the same fate & the vessel was then dismantled and burnt. A boy named Lorio was the only one spared & he lived to tell

this tale to Captain Cheyne some seven years afterwards.
We had Captain Cheyne's book with us and made use of several words from his vocabulary to the men that came on board of us. They understood perfectly, & seemed overpowered with astonishment at our reading the words from a book. We ~~asked~~ mentioned Lorio's name and they nodded and pointed to the shore. When we asked for Leok, ~~a chief~~ the chief of Tomal & who headed the conspiracy, they looked soberly, & reclined their heads on their hands, thereby ~~intimating~~ intimating that he was dead.
Our survey of Quaf being finished we headed once more ~~towards~~ to the north ~~east~~ west and cracking all sail on the reeling brig we dashed off at the rate of 200 miles a day. The favorable monsoon never left us until we had fairly passed through the Balintang channel into the China Sea. Here we met with light breezes, but a current, the same which goes on sweeping by Formosa to Japan forming the Gulf Stream of the Pacific, carried us to the north until ~~it took~~ we met a furious gale ~~from~~ sweeping down the Formosa channel. With that abeam we Edged over to the Chinese shore but not without damage.

the heavy sea that was running made every thing crack & strain in the rotten old brig. In one watch we pumped out from three feet water in the hold, and in one of the heavy lurches we lost one lee quarter boat. All the upper works leaked very much & Filey & the Doctor were actually driven out of their bunks by the water.

On the morning of the 24th of ~~February~~ February we were on soundings and in smooth water - We hove-to ~~until morning~~ waiting for daylight. At last it came and revealed to us fleets of chinese junks & fishing boats. Had I not been some what prepared for their singular appearance, I should have thought they were all taking their farewell of this external globe and were diving simultaneously to the realms below. Their high stern & low tapering bows with the two peaked up mat sails, the forward one so much the smallest gave them exactly the appearance of being about to go down head foremost.

One fellow edged down towards us and hailing in English, asked if we wanted a pilot. We took him on board amid a terrible jabbering of fishermen & fisher women. The high, rugged, & barren islands which form the archipelago off the mouth of the Canton river, soon

broke through the morning vapors, and passing between the islands of Hong Kong and Potoë, the sun came blazing out the easterly wind freshened, the Chinese boats & junks became innumerable, & occasionally a more familiar vessel would be seen beating about in the passages to & from the anchorage of "Victoria". The scene altogether was novel and charming and the ~~prospect~~ prospect of being once more at anchor was to us wearied & worried ones, soothing beyond measure. We had come ~~[illegible]~~ over 13,000 miles in 105 days, Exposed to every species of hardship, danger & Exposure, & with but little to vary the monotony or to relieve the confinement of a ten gun brig.

As we approached Macao we were run down by a Chinese sampan flying the American flag. We were going nine knots, but the boat took up a position & as we darted by, the crew poked out long bamboos with hooks at their ends & were fast alongside in a twinkling. It proved to be ~~Ayo~~ Ayouk's the Compradoor's boat. The Captain knew the firm & engaged him. From that moment we were their property. Soon after we rounded to & let go the anchor –

Perry's Expedition
1852-54