

in one place and the captain in another. Orders were given to keep a bright lookout ahead, and about midnight several lights were seen flashing on the water about three points off our weather bow. We knew that we were close to land, and that the lights were from the canoes of the natives, who were fishing off the island. The wheel was put hard down, and as she came to the wind on the other tack we laid our main topsail aback, and hove to till the mate came on deck in the morning watch, when they braced forward and kept off *ch. N. W.* At daylight the land was just visible off deck, away on our weather beam. They concluded it was Byron's island, but instead of bracing up and running for it, all sail was made and we kept on our way.

30th Sunday. Light wind and beautiful weather. Steering *ch. N. W.* Just before noon we saw a large water spout off our lee beam. Overhead was a large white cloud, which began to grow dark by degrees, until it was black as ink, when the whole mass moved off to leeward. At noon the yards were squared and we

steered West. At 2 P.M. braced up and made all sail, steering *ch. N. W.* Lat. 1.05° S, Long. 175.20° E.

Monday Light wind, steering *ch. N. W.* Broke out beef and pork. Caulking. Kept off *ch. N. W.* at noon. Raised Simpson's island at $2\frac{1}{2}$ P.M., on our larboard beam. Saw two fin backs shortly after. Lat. 16° m. N., Long. 174.12° E. At sunset we shortened sail, and hove to off the weather end of the island, with a light in the mizzen rigging. Braced forward at $10\frac{1}{2}$, and tacked at 2. Land ahead.

2d At daylight the land was about five miles off. Set main topgallant sail and ran as near as practicable, and hauled our main topsail aback. Two canoes came off. We then braced forward and ran down towards the lee end of the island. Woodley's island is just visible from the mast-head 18 miles off our lee beam. Finding that there was no chance of trading at Simpson's island, at noon we squared the yards and ran off for Woodley's island. This was the best island that we visited last season. But since we were last here there had been trouble. The cause, as near as I could find out, I learned from one of the crew of the *Charragansett*, which ship we spoke