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J. J. JARVES, Editor.

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On the evening of the 28th, the wind hauled to the southward, blowing fresh through the night, and in the morning hauled back again so as to enable us to steer our course.

The breeze continued to freshen till it was necessary to take in sail, and moor the boats to our oars, which were tied together and cast overboard. We made all snug for the gale, which was rapidly increasing, and quietly awaited the issue. Indeed it was evident to us that the winds were about to be let loose in all their fury. The sun at mid-day withdrew from the scene of elemental strife. The storm-cloud moved rapidly on its course, as if already on errand of destruction. Night was fast approaching, clothed in the majesty of the tempest. The sea moaned dismally under its agitations, as wave after wave reared their heaving waters high above us, threatening to overwhelm us. Never will that trying scene be forgotten by those from whom even hope had fled—and I would have considered the man mad or a coward that would have at that moment dreamed of escape. Even the short ejaculation of "Lord save us," had ceased to be repeated. Every countenance was clothed with a wild unearthly gaze of utter hopelessness. It was an hour of living death. And when the long, low swell of the sea told that a calm had succeeded the storm. It was really difficult to realize that we had been saved, and were yet inhabitants of—Ocean.

Perhaps we over-rated our danger; in fact I am aware that we were easily excited owing to extreme debility, the necessary result of close confinement, constant watching, and more especially of short allowance of bread and water.

We were unable to move in the boat except with great caution, for fear of upsetting. The scorching rays of a tropical sun through the day, and the chills of the night air, together with the constant drenching from the spray which continually broke over us, all had the effect to unman us, as to strength or courage.

Jan. 2, we had calms and thunder squalls at intervals through the day, and at sun-set thought we saw land ahead. According to our latitude and longitude we supposed it to be Bolabola, one of the Society Islands, and hoped ere the setting of another sun to regard our sufferings as a scene that was past, a tale that had been told—but that tale was destined to be augmented by a series of events yet to transpire.

During the night we had a heavy thunder storm, the rain falling in such torrents as to employ one man to bail the boat, not forgetting to replenish our water keg. At day break the rain had ceased, but a strong s. e. wind set in, blowing almost a gale—no land in sight—very thick to windward—threatening another tempest. The boats having no keel would not hold on by the wind, and notwithstanding we were confident of being but a few miles to the leeward of the Islands, we were obliged to put away and steer for some more westerly group. We held a consultation, and thought best to shape our course for the Hervey Islands, but as a number of small uninhabited islands lay in our course, we agreed to touch at one

of them for the purpose of ascertaining the variation of the chronometer. We decided upon Lord Howe's Island, where we were to rejoin, should we part company in the night.

Thus far we had been steering by the wind, but now our course was altered so as to run before it—and we did run, or more properly fly. With two large boat sails, set wing and wing, and a cracking south-easter, with a heavy sea, we fairly bounded over the billows. Those who have witnessed the sports of the Sandwich Islands natives, in the surf, may judge of our speed when poised on the pitch of a heavy swell the boats would keep that position for near a minute, and rushing through the water with frightful rapidity, almost buried in the foam.

During the day saw a cocoa nut and an orange afloat, also passed within oars'-length of the trunk of a tree, proving that the land was to windward not far distant, but to reach it with the wind as it was and was likely to continue, was out of the question; so we quietly kept our course. At sunset the wind lulled down to a moderate breeze, which continued through the night and following day. Saw numerous flocks of birds, indicating land near. At sunset they all took their flight to the west, and we shaped our course by them, running till ten in the evening, when we took in sail and lay-to, fearing we might miss the island or run ashore in the night. At three o'clock in the morning heard breakers, and saw the land by moonlight about half a mile under our lee. Took our oars and pulled round under the lee of the land, which proved to be Lord Howe's Island.

This island is low and well wooded, but completely encircled by a coral reef. We compared our reckoning by the chronometer with the longitude of the island as laid down in the charts, and ascertained that we were within fifteen miles of Bolabola when we steered away for the westward.

Now our object was, if possible, to effect a landing and remain on the island till we had recovered from our weakness, and till a westerly wind would enable us to run for the Society Islands. But to plan is one thing, and to execute another, all the world over; so it proved in this case.

We pulled round the island in search of some nook or opening in the reef where we might land in safety. But the edict of the Great Architect of Nature, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther," was equally applicable to us, as the proud waves on whose bosom we were tossed. To attempt to force a landing through the breakers would have been madness, as the heavy sea occasioned by the late gale, lashed the shore with a foam of fury, threatening instant destruction. Thick clusters of bananas and cocoa nuts hung suspended from the trees, only a few yards distant, as if in mockery of hunger, but all attempts to reach them proved fruitless—and we proceeded on our voyage.

The birds were very tame, and flew so near us that we knocked one of them down with an oar, which we cooked in the following manner; a bottle of varnish was poured into a tin basin and set in the bottom of the boat; this was set on fire, and another tin basin used for bailing the

boat was held over it, containing the Booby, for such was the bird. In this way we made a kind of broth which supplied us, eight men, for two days; and I never enjoyed a greater luxury.

January 6th, had heavy squalls and rough sea, making us extremely uncomfortable, as we had no shelter from the pitiless storms that beat upon us night and day. Our health was wonderfully preserved under all these circumstances.

A small piece of hard bread dipped in fresh water, and sometimes just for a change, dipped in salt water, was our only food, except occasionally a flying fish might drop exhausted into the boat, and share the same fate with the one before mentioned. It became a very common circumstance to pick up a fish, bite off a chew, and pass it around, sometimes before it had done kicking—just as a countryman would a quid of tobacco.

This may be considered a fish story, but I had been to the Sandwich Islands, and there learned that a raw fish or a "cooked dog," might be turned to good account, and even had I been ignorant of that fact, the stimulus of hunger would have given us the hint.

We continued our course till the midnight of the 7th, when judging by our reckoning that we were in the vicinity of land, we took in sail and lay till morning.

At daylight, had Hervey's Island lying under our lee, four miles distant. Made sail and run down the north side, and on rounding a point our attention was attracted by a white house built in the European style. Various were our conjectures concerning it. That it had been built by some foreigner was evident from its construction, which seemed to relieve us of the fear of falling into the hands of savages.

As we drew near we counted six small huts near the white building, but could discover no human being. We took in sail and drifted slowly down the shore, in order that they might see us if there were any inhabitants. After drifting in this manner till we found ourselves opposite the settlement we hove-to, and lay still just out side the breakers. Half an hour passed and no signs of any human being could be discovered. We began to fear that they had secreted themselves until we had effected a landing, when they would pounce upon us. But something must be done. One of our number prepared himself to swim to the shore and ascertain the facts, regardless of the danger and of our exhaustion. But while we were detaining him, all at once a party of natives came running round a point of land, having discovered us, and came down to the shore, beckoning us to run our boats through the surf and land; but as this was hazardous undertaking we declined. As soon as they perceived us to hesitate, they almost instantly disappeared in the bushes and as suddenly returned again bringing a canoe, which they launched and came off to us, bringing a supply of cocoa nuts, as a token of friendship. And if they judged of the pacific nature of our visit by the practical welcome which the presents received, they must entertained the most exalted opinion of us. They spoke the Tahitian language which one of our number was so fortunate as to understand in some small degree. From them we learned that ma-

ny years before, a canoe containing about twenty persons, in passing from Tahiti to Huahine, had been driven to sea in a gale, and, after many weeks of suffering, was cast ashore on this island. The last of that unfortunate company was now before us. He was an old man, probably seventy or eighty years of age, and stated that he was a boy when cast on this island, which at that time was uninhabited. They lived in peace and harmony, and had increased to the number of forty-five. A canoe of forty persons had left the island to cross over to a neighboring one about one degree west, and were lost at sea, leaving only five on the island, viz: one man and his wife, about middle aged, their two sons, and the veteran of Tahiti, the father of this little nation.

The island is low but well covered with cocoa nuts, and, like most of the small islands, is surrounded by an unbroken reef, making it difficult and sometimes impossible to land or embark. The only food on which the natives had subsisted was cocoa nuts, fish, and birds, having no fresh water, but an abundance of cocoa nut milk. A missionary from Tahiti had visited them (probably Mr. Williams) and told them of the true God; and by his instrumentality the white house which so astonished us, had been built for a chapel.

The natives went ashore in their canoe and brought off a large stone, which served as an anchor to our boats, and then taking Capt. B. into the canoe landed him together with the interpreter. Capt. B. attended prayers with them immediately on landing, at which they clapped their hands, saying, "Our teachers have come. We have prayed for teachers, and, lo, they have come!" After learning the impossibility of landing with the boats, we thought it best to run over to the island of Aitutaki, (Wytootuckee,) one degree westerly.

Finding us determined to leave them, the native set about husking cocoa nuts and roasting fish for us to take with us.

At sunset made sail and stood away for Aitutaki; run till two o'clock in the morning and hove-to. At daylight saw the land six miles distant, run down the north side till we found a channel through the reef large enough to admit a small schooner.

The reef being about a mile from the shore, enclosed a large lagoon which served as harbor. Through this we run with a fair wind till the boats grounded about fifty yards from the beach. The natives collected by hundreds and surrounded us in such a body as to make it impossible to get out of the boat without walking on their heads.

First one would jump into the boat and assume an air of authority, then another would drive him out and take his place, each party filling the air with shouts which were echoed by the whole multitude, in one grand chorus of (to us) unintelligible jargon, which would have put the builders of Babel to the blush, and would have been a caution to the whole system of modern mobocracy. To us it was indeed a caution to prepare for the issue of a contest which was fast ripening to a fight.

We knew not the cause of the dispute in violent agitation, but I, for one, began to fear for our safety, not knowing but we had escaped the sea, to fall by the hand