

BIBLIOTHECA AUSTRALIANA # 22

JOHN MEARES

VOYAGES MADE
IN THE YEARS 1788 AND 1789
FROM CHINA TO
THE NORTH-WEST COAST OF AMERICA

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V O Y A G E

OF THE

IPHIGENIA, CAPT. DOUGLAS,

FROM

SAMBOINGAN, TO THE NORTH WEST COAST OF AMERICA.

C H A P. XXVI.

The FELICE departs from Samboingan.—The subsequent Conduct of the Governor to Captain Douglas.—Part of the Crew confined, and the Ship detained by his Orders.—His unwarrantable Conduct.—The IPHIGENIA sails from Samboingan.—Arrives off a small Island, now named Johnstone's Island.—Communication with the Natives, and a Description of them.—Tawnee, a Sandwich Islander, on board the IPHIGENIA, falls sick and dies. Sickness of the Crew.—Pass through the Pelew Islands.—Communication with the Natives.—An affecting Circumstance, unknown to Captain Douglas.

IN the narrative of the former voyage it has been related, that on the 12th of February the Felice left the Iphigenia at Samboingan, preparing to take on board her fore-mast, and then to proceed on her voyage.—The causes which occasioned the separation of the two ships have already been mentioned; and the orders delivered to Captain Douglas on the occasion, are inserted in the Appendix.—The following pages, therefore, contain the voyage of the Iphigenia after she was left by her
 comfort,

1788.
 FEBRUARY.
 Tuesday 12

On the 1st of March the Iphigenia had made a very inconsiderable progress on her voyage. She had been retarded by light and variable winds; while the numerous islands which she hourly saw and approached, made the navigation not only difficult but tedious, as she was obliged to proceed with the utmost care and precaution.

1788.

MARCH.
Saturday 1

On the 2d of March, she fell in with a very dangerous reef of rocks, which extend East and West nearly ten miles. These rocks bear no place on any of the charts we had in our possession, and are out of the water about the size of a ship's hull. The centre of them lies in the latitude of $4^{\circ} 10'$ North, and longitude, by several lunar observations, of $126^{\circ} 39'$ East of Greenwich. In the position which the ship occupied, there was a strong current setting to the South East.

Sunday 2

They continued their course amidst this archipelago of rocky islets till the 6th; when at noon of that day, the latitude was $3^{\circ} 45'$ North, and the longitude $129^{\circ} 7'$ East. The variation of the compass was $2^{\circ} 15'$ West.

Thursday 6

As they were proceeding to the Northward and Eastward on the 9th of March, a small island appeared bearing East half North, at the distance of about ten or twelve leagues. They continued steering up with it till nine at night, when observing a great number of lights on the shore, Captain Douglas imagined that they were kept burning in order to induce the ship to stop. At eleven o'clock, it being considered as hazardous to run during the night, which was very dark, the ship was hove to, but no soundings could be obtained with fifty fathoms of line.—At break of day on the 10th, they made sail to close in with the land, when several canoes were seen approaching. They therefore again hove to, in order to permit the natives of the island to come on

Sunday 9

Monday 10

1788.
MARCH.

board.—For some time they kept at a certain distance, holding up cocoa-nuts in their hands; but they no sooner saw the hatchets which were exposed to their view in return, than the Iphigenia was favoured with an immediate visit. From the whole of their conduct, it very evidently appeared that they had never before beheld such an object as that which now engrossed all their regard, as it called forth their utmost astonishment; and from the very great indifference with which they promiscuously received every thing that was offered to them, it seemed as if the ship alone was the object of their attention.

It was intended that the Iphigenia should remain off this island for a day, in order to get a supply of water, of which they were informed by the natives there was great abundance. In the afternoon the canoes returned with more cocoa-nuts and taro-root, and the inhabitants seemed to have learned, since their last visit, the value of iron; as they now would take nothing but *Owashee*, *Owashee*, which is their word for that metal. They were entire strangers to fire-arms; for on one of them expressing a wish to have a pistol, Captain Douglas discharged it;—which alarmed him to such a degree, that when it was held towards him, he kissed the barrel, but could not be persuaded to lay hold of it.

This island, which was now named Johnstone's Island, lies in the latitude of $3^{\circ} 11'$ North, and in the longitude of $131^{\circ} 12'$ East. It consists of low land covered with verdure, and cocoa-trees, and is about a league in circumference. One tree in particular rises above the rest, and appears at a distance like a ship under sail.—What the island produces, besides cocoa-nuts and the taro-root, was not discovered, as the inhabitants brought nothing to barter but those articles.—The natives did not appear to exceed the number of two hundred, and are a stout, robust people. Their canoes, which held twelve or fourteen of them, were
exactly

exactly the same as those of the Sandwich Islands; and the people not only displayed the same activity in the water as the Sandwich Islanders, but made use of several expressions which Tianna readily understood. A fine breeze springing up, Captain Douglas gave up his design of taking in water at this island, and continued his course to the Eastward.

1788.
MARCH.

The Iphigenia proceeded in her voyage with very little variation of weather, till the 16th; when Tawnee, a Sandwich Islander, from his watchful care and anxiety during Tianna's illness, was now sick himself. Several of the crew were also in the same situation; and the first officer, who had been ill upwards of a month, was not yet recovered; and there was every reason to fear a general sickness throughout the ship. Tianna was now entirely recovered, and owed the re-establishment of his health to the Peruvian bark, which operated almost miraculously upon the chief of Atooi. The latitude from observation was $2^{\circ} 0'$ North, and the longitude $136^{\circ} 48'$ East.

Sunday 16

The poor amiable islander at length baffled all the care which was bestowed upon him.—A continual bleeding at the nose was the first symptom; and when that stopped, a fever succeeded, which seemed for some short time to yield to the bark; but the disorder at length triumphed, and Tawnee was the victim. About one o'clock, on the 23d, he quitted this world, and was consigned, with the regret of every one on board, to a watery grave.

Sunday 23

From a continuance of light and variable winds, with occasional calms, the Iphigenia advanced but very slowly on her voyage: It was therefore determined on the 28th, particularly as the sickness on board seemed rather to increase, to take every advantage of getting to the Northward. The ship was therefore put on the other tack, and though she did not
make

Friday 28