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I "Seek, and ye shall find."
An Account of the Voyages of
Captain Cook.

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James Cook was born on October 27th, 1728, at Marton, in Yorkshire. He had few advantages from education, but in spite of that, he rose to be a famous man by means of industry, perseverance, and determination.

He began life as an apprentice to a shopkeeper, but while still young he went to sea. When twenty-seven years old, he became a mate on board a ship then lying in the Thames. At this time England was at war with France, and Cook volunteered his services. He joined the navy as an A.B. and in 1759 he was employed on a King's ship, surveying the Gulf of St Lawrence. It was at this time that he overcame the defects of a scanty education, and by studying mathematics became an efficient navigator.

The Admiralty, at the suggestion of the Royal Society, determined to despatch an expedition to the Pacific, to observe the transit of Venus. Stephens, the Secretary of the Admiralty, recommended Cook for the command of the expedition. He was given the commission of lieutenant in May 1768, and appoin

ted to the command of the "Endeavour". Thus he began the career that he followed with uninterrupted success until his death.

On August 26th, 1768, the "Endeavour" sailed from Plymouth on her first voyage. The voyagers reached the harbour of Rio de Janeiro on November 13th. They entered the Strait of Le Maire on January 14th, 1769, but weather conditions made it necessary to cast anchor in St Vincent's Bay, to which Cook gave its name. He sailed from Cape Horn on January 26th, discovering Lagoon Island, Osaburgh Island, and King George the Third's Island or Otaheite. They entered Port Royal Harbour, anchoring within half a mile of the shore on the 13th. A large number of canoes put off from the shore, crowding around the ship, and bartering bananas, coco-nuts, bread-fruit, apples, and some hogs with the crew, for beads and other trinkets. Here Cook made preparations for the observation of Venus crossing the sun. Thus he successfully observed and reported.

Leaving the harbour, he discovered and named the Society Islands, and also named a headland on the coast of New Zealand Cape Turn Again, on October 14th.

Cook sailed northwards, sighting

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many native villages, and on October 29th, having weathered Cape Bret, he anchored in the Bay of Islands, so called on account of the many islands it contains. In this bay the crew had difficulties with the Indians.

Queen Charlotte's Sound was discovered, and, on March 13th, Cook sighted and named Dusky Bay. They anchored at Cape Farewell, and, sailing thence, land was at last seen. This land was Australia. Anchoring at Botany Bay, Cook had more trouble with the natives. Port Jackson and Broken Bay were discovered on May 6th, 1770.

On June 10th, the ship narrowly escaped shipwreck. A large rock that had torn a hole in the vessel's hull fortunately remained embedded there, and thus interrupted the inward flow of water.

Cook then sailed to Batavia, but on December 27th the "Endeavour" left the town, and on March 15th, 1771, cast anchor off the Cape of Good Hope. Quitting the Cape, Cook anchored in St. Helena Bay, after which he steered homewards, reaching England on June 12th, 1771.

Cook set sail from Plymouth on July 13th, 1772, on his second voyage, returning on May 29th, 1775. The expedition consisted of two ships: the

"Resolution" commanded by Cook, and the "Adventure" commanded by Captain Furneaux. Their object was to explore the Southern Hemisphere, and to see if any large continent existed there. The two ships separated in the Southern Seas. Thence the "Resolution" crossed to America, sighting the Straits of Magellan; and reaching the Cape proceeded homewards to Plymouth.

Captain Cook made yet a third voyage before his death. This voyage was fitted out by his Majesty's Government, to discover if there existed a passage, suitable for ships to pass through, round the northern extremity of North America.

The voyagers left England on July 11th, 1776 in two ships: the "Resolution" and the "Discovery". They sailed in company from Plymouth to Teneriffe, passing Cape Verde Islands on August 4th. Table Bay was reached on the 18th. Here Mr. Anderson and some of the crew went inland. The ship left the bay on December 3rd.

Captain Cook named two groups of islands further south Prince Edward's Islands, and Marion's and Crozet's Islands. Here they met with bad weather, but Cook discovered another group of islands, and called it

Kerguelen's Land.

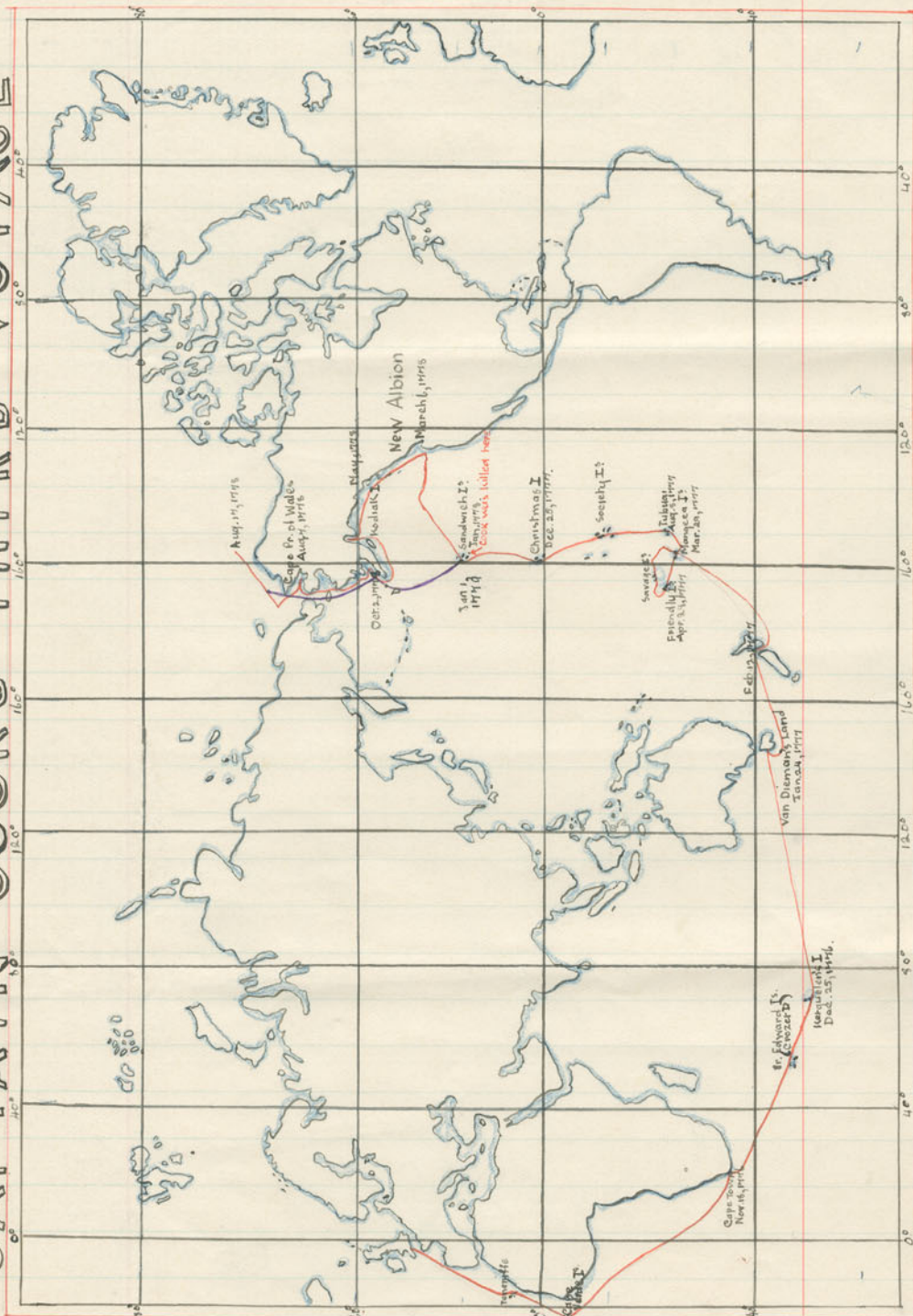
Leaving Kerguelen's Land they encountered more bad weather. On January 24th they discovered and anchored at Van Diemen's Land but left again, discovering Adventure Bay, which they quitted on January 30th. On February 10th they descried the coast of New Zealand, and steering towards Cape Farewell and Society Islands they anchored on the 12th in Queen Charlotte's Sound.

On February 25th Captain Cook left the Sound, and sailing through Cook's Straits saw Cape Palliser on the 27th, and Savage Islands which Cook had discovered in 1774. They then proceeded to the Friendly Islands which were reached on April 28th. Tubuai was passed, and also the Society Islands. On December 25th, 1777 the Christmas Islands were discovered, so named from the date of their discovery.

Weighing anchor at daybreak in January, 1778, Cook steered northwards, discovering the Sandwich Islands.

The ships then took a north-east course, and afterwards due east. Finally on the 6th of March, the long expected coast of New Albion was seen. Cook sailed thence round the western coast of America, and passing Kodiak Island, and Cape Prince of Wales, proceeded to push far into the ice fields of the North. Here much difficulty was

CAPTAIN COOK'S THIRD VOYAGE



Key.
 — Outward Voyage.
 — Homeward Voyage.

encountered from the weather conditions, and Cook named the North-eastern extremity Poy-Cape. This Cape was reached on August 17th, 1779, and Cook found there was no navigable passage for ships around that way.

He returned to the Sandwich Islands in 1779, where, after fighting with the natives, he was stabbed in the back, and clubbed to death by these barbaric men.

His Success as an Explorer

Cook may be placed first among British Maritime discoverers. But for him, England might never have possessed her colonies in Australia and New Zealand.

The constitution of his body was robust, inured to labour. His stomach bore without difficulty the coarsest food. The qualities of his mind were of the same hardy, vigorous kind, with those of his body. His understanding was strong and perspicacious; his judgement quick and sure. His designs were bold and manly, and bore evident marks of a great original genius. His courage was cool and determined, and accompanied with an admirable presence of mind in the moment of danger. His manners were plain and unaffected, but his temper was hasty and passionate.

Cook was a great commander, observer, and practical physician. He was born to command, and had quite extraordinary perseverance. He won the affection of those who served under him by sympathy, kindness, and unselfishness.

This is the outline of Cook's character; and it was this same fine and noble character that carried him through all his hardships. It was also the secret of his success.
