

taska Lagoon, a lake of nearly 50 miles long and from 12 to 15 broad. The scenery in this place was exceedingly beautiful, but as we had tasted nothing eatible from the evening before—instead of stopping to enjoy it we were glad to make the utmost expedition to reach the huts where Lt. Col. Hall and the other gentlemen who had preceded us in the pit-pan were anxiously waiting to receive us. The unavoidable delays, to which we had been exposed led them to dread that some serious accident had befallen us, and at the moment we arrived they had given us all up for lost. Here we met with what might be considered good national fare, and among other luxuries which none of us had enjoyed for some time, we had a hammock swung for each of us, and we retired with the hopes of rising refreshed and able to pass through the lake before the sea breeze should rise in the morning.

In this place the scenery was if possible more attractive than any we had yet passed when viewed from the water. The banks appeared covered with coco-nut trees, and at intervals clothed in what seemed the richest verdure. But on approaching the banks, how miserably were we disappointed? The trees to be sure held out their proper character, but what to us seemed grass was nothing but impenetrable jungle and wild cane. Nothing in the shape of grass or deserving the name was to be seen, and what we had taken for herbage at a distance was a species of sour reeds which no cattle will eat. At the first place where we could get on shore, we landed, and had our toils and exertions rewarded by a plentiful repast, consisting of eggs, fish, and sweet potatoes, furnished by the natives. Our strength refreshed by this means, we again set out on our journey with renovated spirits and strength; and reached the end of this lake, without any further occurrence worthy of notice. On our arrival here, we found another settlement of the natives, but from them experienced a very different treatment from that we had met with from the former. They took us for patriots, and, whether deterred by the fear of the Spaniards, or their dislike to us is uncertain—they however treated us with very great indifference and at first seemed unwilling to lend us assistance in any way or shape whatever. By threats and persuasion their prejudices were at last overcome, and we ultimately succeeded in persuading them, we neither belonged to either the Patriots or Royalists; and they in the end consented to furnish us with some provisions.

Leaving this inhospitable settlement and the lake, on the border of which it is situated, we once more embarked on the ocean, and after proceeding a short distance come to the place termed the false Cape, about 50 miles distant from Cape Gracias a Dios.

At this point of our journey it was decided that three of our party should proceed the rest of the way by land, in order to lighten the canoe, and enable her better to stand the swell and surf of the ocean. This was a resolution more easily formed than carried into effect. The road along the shore was passable with the utmost difficulty. The walking party took no provisions with them, in the hopes they would meet with settlements on the way. In this expectation however they were miserably disappointed; no road or trace of human being could be discovered through their whole route along the beach, and they