

ed to be the continent, and the other land the isle of Alaschka; but it was already a matter of doubt, whether we should discover a passage between them, for the water gradually shoaled as we proceeded further towards the north. In consequence of this, two boats were dispatched ahead to sound; and the commodore ordered the Discovery, as she drew the least water, to lead, keeping nearly in the middle channel, between the coast and the most northerly island. In this manner we continued our course, till three o'clock in the afternoon, when, having passed the island, our soundings did not exceed three fathoms and a half, and the Resolution once brought up the mud from the bottom. In no part of the channel could a greater depth of water be found, though we had sounded it from one side to the other; we therefore deemed it high time to return.

At this time, a head-land on the western shore, to which the name of Bald-head was given, was about one league distant, bearing north by west. The coast extended beyond it as far as north-east by north, where it appeared to terminate in a point; behind which, the coast of the high land, that was seen over the islands, stretched itself. The shore on the western side of Bald-head forms a bay, in the bottom of which is a beach, where we perceived many huts of the natives.

We continued to ply back during the whole night; and, by day-break on the 10th, had deepened our water six fathoms. At nine o'clock, when we were about three miles from the west shore, Captain Cook, accompanied by Mr King, went with two boats in search of wood and water.

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