

this is the method by which the Americans take them. Nothing is more certain, than that all the turtle which are found about this island, come here for the sole purpose of laying their eggs, for they met with none but females; and of all those which they caught, not one had any food worth mentioning in its stomach; a sure sign that they must have been a long time without any; and this may be the reason why the flesh of them is not so good as those caught on the coast of New South Wales, where they feed.

On the 31st of May they left Ascension, and steered to the northward with a fine gale at S. E. by E. They had a great desire to visit the island of St. Matthew, to settle its situation; but as they found the wind would not let them fetch it, they steered for the island of Fernando de Noronha on the coast of Brazil, in order to determine its longitude.

In their passage to Fernando de Noronha, they had steady fresh gales between the S. E. and E. S. E. attended with fair and clear weather.

On the 9th of June at noon, they made that place, distance six or seven leagues. It appeared in detached and peaked hills, the largest of which looked like a church tower or steeple. When they arrived in the road, a gun being fired from one of the forts, the Portuguese colours were displayed, and the example was followed by all the other forts. As the purpose for which Captain Cook made the island was answered, viz. to ascertain the longitude, they stood away without landing, with a gale E. S. E.

This road seems to be well sheltered from the south and east winds. One of the seamen had been on board a Dutch India ship, who put in at this isle in her way out, in 1770. They were very sickly, and in want of refreshments and water. The Portuguese supplied them with some buffaloes and fowls; and they watered behind one of the beaches in a little pool, which was hardly big enough to dip a bucket in.

At seven o'clock in the evening on the 18th the calm was succeeded by a breeze at east, which, the next day, increasing and veering to, and fixing at N. E. they stretched to N. W. with their tacks on