

subject to the Japanese, and is formed and garrisoned on the side towards the continent. The two islands to the N. E. of Matmai, Kunachir, and Zellany, and likewise the three still farther to the N. E. called the Three Sisters, are perfectly independent.

From this account of the Kurile islands, it was a great mortification to our navigators, to find themselves obliged, on the 24th, to give up all farther thoughts of discovery to the North of Japan; the wind for some days past having continued quite unfavourable to their views. Capt. King, however, has enriched his account of this part of their transactions, with several observations on the errors of former geographers.

In consequence of this disappointment, Capt. Gore shaped his course West South West for the North part of Japan. At day-break, on the 26th, they had the pleasure of seeing high land to the Westward, which proved to be that island; along the East coast of which they ran, (experiencing some unexpected effects of the currents) till the 2d of November, when the threatening appearances of a sudden and severe gale made it prudent to leave the shore, and stand off to the Eastward, to prevent being entangled with the land. Nor were wrong in our prognostications; for it soon afterwards began, and continued till next day, to blow a heavy gale, accompanied with hazy and rainy weather.

In the morning of the third, we found ourselves, by our reckoning, upwards of fifty leagues from the land, which circumstance, together with the very extraordinary effect of currents before mentioned, the late season of the year, the unsettled state of the weather, and the little likelihood of any change for the better, made Capt. Gore resolve to leave Japan altogether, and prosecute our voyage to China; hoping, that as the  
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