
 BOOK IV.

Transactions with the natives of North America; discoveries on that coast and the eastern extremity of Asia. And return southward to the Sandwich Islands.

HAVING happily found such excellent shelter for our ships, in an inlet whose coasts appeared to be inhabited by an inoffensive race of people, we lost no time after coming to an anchor, in searching for a commodious harbour, where we might be stationed during our continuance in the Sound. Upon this service Captain Cook sent three armed boats, under the command of Mr. King, and went himself in a small boat on the same business. He had no difficulty in finding what he wanted; for on the north west of the arm, and at a small distance from the ships, he found a convenient snug cove, perfectly adapted to our purpose.

Plenty of canoes, filled with the inhabitants, were about the ships the whole day; and a reciprocal trade was commenced between us, which was conducted with the strictest harmony and integrity on both sides. Their articles of commerce were the skins of various animals; such as bears, sea otters, wolves, foxes, deer, racoons, martins, and pole cats.

Among all the articles, however, which they exposed to sale, the most extraordinary were human skulls, and hands, with some of the flesh remaining on them, which they acknowledged they had been feeding on; and some of them, indeed, bore evident marks of their having been upon the fire. From this circumstance, it was but too apparent, that the horrid practice of devouring their enemies is practised here, as much as at New Zealand, and other South Sea islands.

The next day was employed in hauling our ships into the cove, where they were moored. We found, on heaving up the anchor, notwithstanding the great depth of water, that rocks were at the bottom. These had greatly injured the cable, as well as the haulers that were carried out to warp the ship into the cove; consequently the whole bottom was strewn with the yocks. The ship was now become very leaky in her upper works;