

DESCRIPTION OF THE BAY OF DESPAIR.

The entrance of the *Bay of Despair* lies between the west end of *Long Island* and *Great Jervis Island*, (an island in the mouth of the harbour of the same name;) the distance from one to the other is 1 mile and a quarter, and in the middle between them is no soundings with 280 fathoms.

The *Bay of Despair* forms two capacious arms, one extending to the N.E. 8 leagues, and the other to the northward 5 leagues: In the north arm is very deep water, and no anchorage, but in the small bays and coves which lay on each side of it. At the head of the bay of the east, which is an arm of the north bay, is a very fine salmon river, and plenty of wood. In the N. E. arm of the *Bay of Despair* are several arms and islands, and tolerable good anchorage in some parts of it. *Little River* and *Coune River* are counted good places for salmon fisheries: About these rivers and the head of the bay are great plenty of all sorts of wood common to this country, such as fir, pine, birch, witch-hazel, spruce, &c. All the country about the entrance into the *Bay of Despair*, and for a good way up it, is very mountainous and barren, but about the head of the bay it appears to be pretty level, and well clothed with wood.

Great Jervis Harbour is situated at the west entrance into the *Bay of Despair*, is a snug and safe harbour, with good anchorage in every part of it, in 16, 18 or 20 fathoms, though but small, will contain a great number of shipping, securely sheltered from all winds, and very convenient for wooding and watering. There is a passage into this harbour on either side of *Great Jervis Island*, the southernmost is the safest, there being in it no danger but the shore itself. To sail in on the north side of the island, you must keep in the middle of the passage, until you are within two small rocks above water near to each other on your starboard side, a little within the north point of the passage; you must then bring the said north point between these rocks, and steer into the harbour, in that direction, which will carry you clear of some sunken rocks which lie off the west point of the island; these rocks appear at low water. The entrance into this harbour may be known by the east end of *Great Jervis Island*, which is a high steep craggy point, called *Great Jervis Head*, and is the north point of the south entrance into this harbour.

Bonne Bay lies one league to the westward from *Great Jervis Head*, and north 7 miles from *Pass Island*, there are several islands in the mouth of it, the westernmost of which is the largest and highest. The best passage into the bay is to the eastward of the largest island, between it and the two easternmost islands; which two islands may be known by a rock above water off the south point of each of them. The bay lies in N. N. W. 4 miles, and is near half a mile broad in the narrowest part; there is no danger going in, but what shews itself; you may go on either side of *Drake Island*, which is a small island nearly in the middle of the bay; between this island, and two small islands, lying on the west side of the bay within *Great Island*, is anchorage in 20 and 30 fathoms, but the best place for large ships is at the head of the bay in 12 or 14 fathoms clear ground, and convenient for wooding and watering. On the west side of the bay, a-breast of *Drake Island*, is a very snug harbour for small vessels, wherein is 7 fathoms water, and good conveniences for a fishery; off the south point of the entrance are some sunken rocks about a cable's length from the shore. On the N. W. side of the great island, within the two small islands, is very good anchorage in 16, 20 and 24 fathoms water, sheltered from all winds. The passage into this place to the westward of the great island from the sea is very dangerous, by reason there are several sunken rocks in the passage, and shallow water; but there is a very good passage into it from the bay, passing to the northward of the two small islands, between them and the