

1779.

January.

water. Upon his return, he reported, that, at two cables lengths from the shore, he had found no soundings with a line of one hundred and sixty fathoms; that, when he landed, he found no stream or spring, but only rain-water, deposited in holes upon the rocks; and even that was brackish from the spray of the sea; and that the surface of the country was entirely composed of flags and ashes, with a few plants here and there interspersed. Between ten and eleven, we saw with pleasure the Discovery coming round the South point of the island; and, at one in the afternoon, she joined us. Captain Clerke then coming on board, informed me, that he had cruised four or five days where we were separated, and then plied round the East side of the island; but that, meeting with unfavourable winds, he had been carried to some distance from the coast. He had one of the islanders on board, all this time; who had remained there from choice, and had refused to quit the ship, though opportunities had offered.

Thursday 7.

Having spent the night standing off and on, we stood in again the next morning, and when we were about a league from the shore, many of the natives visited us. At noon, the observed latitude was  $19^{\circ} 1'$ , and the longitude, by the time-keeper, was  $203^{\circ} 26'$ ; the island extending from South,  $74^{\circ}$  East, to North,  $13^{\circ}$  West; the nearest part two leagues distant.

Friday 8.

At day-break on the 8th, we found that the currents, during the night, which we spent in plying, had carried us back considerably to windward; so that we were now off the South West point of the island. There we brought to, in order to give the natives an opportunity of trading with us. At noon our observed latitude was  $19^{\circ} 1'$ , and our longitude, by the time-keeper, was  $203^{\circ} 13'$ ; the South West point