

every respect ready, and observe the following instructions for your guidance:—

“ You are to proceed with all convenient expedition to Rio Janeiro, where you are to complete your provisions and water ; after which you are to make the best of your way round Cape Horn, and endeavour to make Easter Island ; from whence you are to take your departure, steering for the Society Islands, and passing near the spot where Gomez Island appears in the charts, in order to ascertain whether such island has any existence ; and, in like manner, whether Ducie’s and Elizabeth Islands be not one and the same. You will then proceed to Pitcairn’s Island at the south-eastern extremity of the groupe of the Society Islands, or, as they are sometimes called, the Georgian Islands, where you will commence a survey of this groupe, proceeding north-westerly to Otaheite. In the execution of this survey it may be found most advisable to anchor, if practicable, every evening, under one of the islands, in order that the situation of the ship may, by these means, be more secure, and that you may be certain that none of them are passed by you unobserved. If, however, you should experience any difficulty in pursuing the route herein pointed out, from the prevailing winds, you will make the best of your way to Otaheite, and proceed from thence in your survey to Pitcairn’s Island.

“ During your stay among these or any other of the islands of the Pacific which you may visit, you are to use every possible endeavour to preserve an amicable intercourse with the natives, and to caution your officers and ship’s company to avoid giving offence or engaging in disputes with them ; and you are to show them on all occasions every act of kind-