

# HAPPY DAYS

Vol. XIX.

TORONTO, JANUARY 16, 1904.

No. 2.

## CAPTAIN COOK.

To the older generation of readers the story of Captain Cook is an old and familiar tale. But the old stories must be often re-told to the new generations; and the character and work of Captain Cook entitle him to perpetual honour. To him is due the discovery of many islands where his followers have wrought mightily for the salvation of souls.

James Cook was the son of a farm-labourer, in Marton, Yorkshire, England, and was born October 28, 1728. His father was a man of energy, and afterward became a bailiff. When James was thirteen years old, in accordance with the custom of the time, he was bound out to a haberdasher at Straiths, near Whitby. He did not long remain here; some difficulty arose between him and his master, and, like so many other adventurous lads, he left, and entered himself as an apprentice on board a collier, and soon became an officer. At the poor age of in 1757, his personal aspirations led him to join the royal navy, in the service of which he spent his life. Very soon he attracted the notice of his superiors, by his ability; and on the recommendation of the commander of his ship, Cook was appointed master of the "Grampus," and afterwards of two other vessels.

While in command of the "Mercury," he was sent to join the fleet in the St. Lawrence, and assisted in the capture of Newfoundland—the coast of which he surveyed in the following year, 1763. So well was this done, that, in 1764, he was appointed Marine Surveyor of Newfound-

land, and was chosen to conduct an expedition to the Southern Pacific, to take an observation from that point. He was therefore made a lieutenant, and proceeded to Tahiti, where a successful observation was made by the scientists of the expedition. This done, he cruised westward through the

Southern Pacific, to New Zealand, Australia, and Java, where he stopped for repairs, and then returned to England by way of the Cape of Good Hope, having made the circuit of the globe. He arrived in England, June 11, 1771, and was at once made a captain. His stay was short, however, for public discussion had taken up the question of a southern continent, and Cook was again appointed to make a voyage of exploration in search of it. With two ships, and nearly two hundred men, he left Plymouth July 13, 1772. He passed the Cape of Good Hope, and then cruised through the southern regions until midsummer of 1774, when, having made three voyages to and fro in the southern regions, he was convinced that no continent was



CAPTAIN COOK.

land and Labrador. While in this service he made a careful observation of a solar eclipse, the report of which gave him considerable fame among scientists.

It was known that there was soon to be a transit of Venus; and in view of Cook's evident skill in astronomical work,

there, and returned to England, where he was further honoured by promotion to be post-captain in command of Greenwich Hospital, and was elected to membership in the Royal Society. And now a third enterprise demanded his services. Arctic discovery took the place of the southern