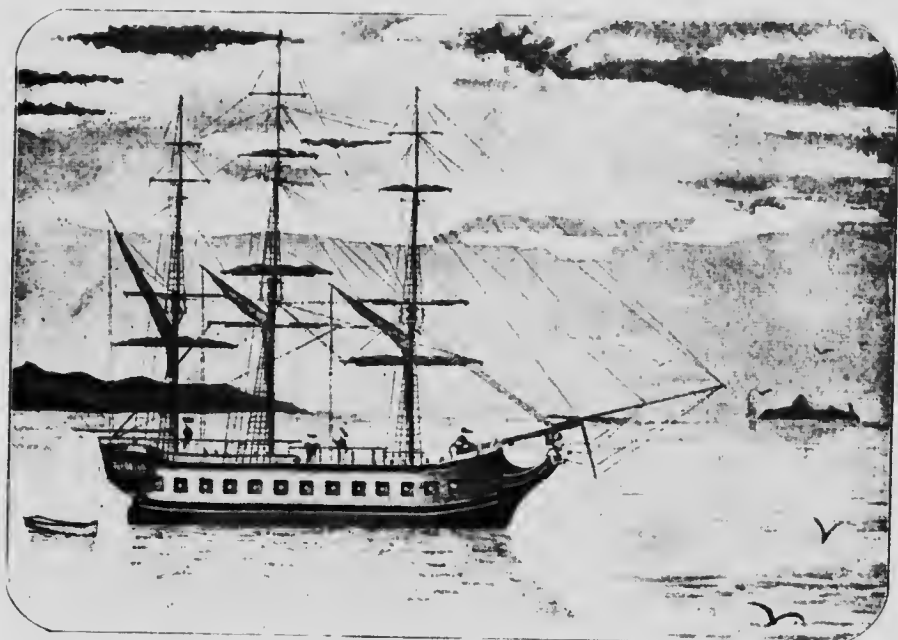


decided to push on westward and examine the coasts of a land then known as New Holland. No chart of this huge island continent had at that time ever been made, and Cook decided to see what he could do in the way of charting and discovery. How well his training on the Newfoundland survey helped him at this moment.

All the world now knows about the Great Barrier Reef which lies on the eastern coast of Australia, but no one on the "Endeavour" had any warning of such a danger. So up the coast, past the harbor where the proud city of Sydney stands today, far northward the "Endeavour"



THE ENDEAVOUR

wormed her way till shoals and quicksands made a close survey of the coast an impossibility.

Then one night, in standing off the land to get into deeper water, the "Endeavour" struck on a ledge of the Reef. With the greatest difficulty the ship was navigated back to the protection of a muddy bay. There the sailors heeled the "Endeavour" over on a sloping bank and found that a great hole had been pushed in near the bow, but that luckily a piece of coral rock had broken off and remained wedged in the aperture. Otherwise the ship would have at once filled and sunk.

Temporary repairs were made by the sailors and the voyage was continued through the Torres Straits and on to Batavia, where the ship was given a thorough overhaul. By the time the ship was ready for sea it was the middle of December (1770). But the two months' stay in Batavia had proved to be anything but pleasant. So many of the crew were sick with fever that but a handful remained to man the