

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Journal and Letters of Captain Charles Bishop on the North-West Coast of America, in the Pacific and in New South Wales 1794-1799

Edited by
MICHAEL ROE

CAMBRIDGE
Published for the Hakluyt Society
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1967

The King having manifested a plan to ...
 Missionaries, for the sake of their subjects, from as the King's
 side, and has already committed hostilities on that of the
 who went to Endeavour to rescue our boat and people, ...
 they all met in Council and the Majority resolved, if an order
 took them on board, to leave the King and go with a small
 Barkon, giving to the Spaniards which would give for their Passage, and
 it, having been our intention, however leaving the King's
 to lay in such a stock of provisions, as would prevent the want
 of our purchasing much at St. Paulon, when of course we should
 it would be dear, we give to each three or four hundred
 say the difference of Price between buying them here and elsewhere
 and send their savings down in the vessel, and on 29th of March
 we received on board 11 men 4 women & 10 children with all their
 cloths and effects, and we got under way and sailed
 our Barkon being loaded to a full we unfortunately parted the
 cable and cut it, and put her, however and ground in two
 with a leak ship & with only one Anchor, ...
 24th of April a Captain of a bark arrived in my former vessel
 continued, with encouragement of a few hours, from which the
 very night had a fever to my wife and 4 of my crew, ...
 it happily stopped on the 19th and in the course of a few days
 I became perfectly well, ... the 16th of May we arrived at
 Port Jackson, the vessel being about 1000 miles from
 ...
 The next day being the 16th of May I departed to
 sail with the King's ship, ... for the Colony, that as he
 parted as to the quantity of provisions of that nature, and on the
 17th the following Protest was made by myself, ...
 ...

Protest

By this Public Instrument of Protest, he is known unto all Men
 who shall see this Protest, that on 16th of May, in Year of our Lord
 one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight, before me, His Majesty's
 His Majesty's Justice of the Peace, of the Territory of New South Wales, ...

A page of Bishop's Memoranda on ship *Nautilus*, Amboyna to Port Jackson, 1796-99. Mitchell Library, MS. C.192, fol. 124

S.W. We saw no natives belonging to the Sound, but where visited by some Cannoes from the Northward who brought a few Furs

Having Proceeded to the Northward about 9 or 10 miles and passed several small openings we came to an Island Called by the Natives Lenna Huen on which their Chief Comswa and his tribe have their Habitations during the Summer for Catching and Drying Fish for the Winters Store, and Passing it about two miles Anchored in a Fine Sandy Bay N West of it in 11 fathoms.¹ This Bay is Surrounded by small Woody Islands and Rocky Islets and open only to an E S East wind. The Natives have several Spots of Land clear'd in which there appear'd to be something sow'd and on the Point there are some Hugh Images intended to represent Human Figures. There are several Monuments Erected with Some degree of Order and I understand this is the Place where they Bury their Dead²

The ship was no sooner Anchored than we where visited by Cannoes from all Quarters Who brought many good Furs: but the Price as Usual was so high we did not purchase one, and the Natives took them away with seeming unconcern, altho' threatened that we Should Sail before the Morning.—

We had observed that all the Skins we procured since coming among these Islands where newly killed, and by no means equal in general to the winter Furs, but here we learned that a Ship had preceded us and had gone on to the Northward but a little time since. Impressed with this Idea, we Purchased all their Skins Early the next morning and sail'd for the Opposite Shore intending to trade the coast up to the

¹ Bishop presumably had come to Cumshewa Inlet. Lenna Huen was probably Cumshewa Island, possibly Kingui Island. Bishop was not explicit whether he went into the Inlet or farther up the coast; more likely the former, especially as the northern coast has shallow in-shore waters. The harbour remains difficult to identify. The spelling Cumshewa is taken from the geographical features now named after him; whenever present geography gives this lead to past orthography, it is followed.

² The images were totem poles. It is most unlikely that Bishop saw any cultivation.

Northward. And here I cannot help observing how Cautious a Trader should be how he begins trade on his Arrival first among these Islands, for if he gives any thing Extraordinary at First, or if there is any thing new and uncommon in his Cargo, He must consider that the different Tribes communicate with each other, and he must Purchase every Skin at the Same Price and with the Same Articles, or meet with considerable delay and trouble noise &c¹

In the after noon we Saw Banks's Island bearing NE 9 or 10 Leagues and dureing the short dark there was in the Sky, we have too and then made Sail in for the Land at Daylight. At 6 o'clock a Smoke was Observed ahead for which we stood Monday 22^d and Passed several Rocks and Rocky Islets—when a Cannoe came off with 5 men in her singing a Song in which there was a good deal of melody, and Paddled alongside. They made Signs that there was a good Harbour inside the Small Islands which we were within a mile of and we Steer'd in for them. The Entrance is about 500 yards wide and when within them we anchored in 14 fathoms shelly Bottom distant from Each Shore 200 yards in a Snug and Secure Haven.² We under stood from the Natives that they had 30 or 40 Skins: however they only Produced alongside two, that had been lately taken and was not Cured which we told them, we would Purchase as soon as the Eannas had Prepared them for Drying. The Indians now left us and Paddled to the Shore a little way above us—

In the afternoon the wale Boat was well manned and Arm'd and I went up the Harbour to Explore it and see if there was any more Indians. Having proceeded about half a mile up we came to the Wigwam of the Natives who had been on board which stood within a Point behind which was a snug Bason for their Cannoes. On our approach the Natives Expressed

¹ Bishop seemingly wrote in retrospect, and in regret of his early practice.

² On the western coast of Banks Island, towards the south. From Bishop's latitude (see below, p. 67) and description, Waller Bay was probably the anchorage. He was now among the Tsimshian people.

much fear of us, and with some reason for they had been detected Pilfering several articles while on board. However it was not our intention to offer the least harm to them, but our motives for Landings, was, as well from curiosity, as a desire to see the Quantity of Furs they had. Having Expressed our intention, the Indians very Frankly met us half way, and conducted us up, but not 'till he had considerable conversation with the Women, through the bushes. The first place we came to was the butchery, where lay about 40 dead Seals, newly killed. Ten or 12 more, was on the Fire, Singing the Hair off the Skins. A Woman and a man where Stripping the blubber and Skin together, off an other Quantity. Another woman was cutting up and Quartering the Flesh. Many Poles spread from tree to tree about 6 feet over the Fire where Covered with Strips of Blubber, and on bushes all round was hung the Flesh. Blood Guts and filth formed the comfortable foot Path to the Habitation which lay about 10 yards from the butchery. This was no other than some Poles stretched from tree to tree about 7 feet from the Ground and covered with the Rind of the Birch Tree. A large fire right in the Middle served as well to warm the inhabitants as to dry their Fish, vast quantities of which where hung to the Poles and spread round the Rocks near the Hutt: This Family consisted of an old man, 3 of middle age and two young ones, and they had Each a Wife seemingly Proportioned to their own ages, which with 4 Small Children composed the Group. The Men where all quite naked: nor did they appear to Show the least attention or delicacy towards the Women, but would set down on their Hams before them, or lay wallowing in the filth & Dirt before the fire—the Women where very different, altho' their Skins where covered with dirt yet no small share of unaffected modesty appeared both in their manners and Dress—

We now expressed our desire to see the Sea otter skins when to our mortification we found they had only two newly killed and not dressed. The Indian pointed to the dead seals and made Signs that they were the skins he meant. We should

on this information immediately *haze* returned to the Ship and sailed but as it was late in the afternoon and the wind foul for getting out upon, the Natives telling us that they would have the Skins dressed ready for Sale by Sun Rise the next morning we resolved to wait—two women instantly set to work on the Skins which where just taken off the otters. They began by first lacing sticks round the Edges of the Skin, after which a square Frame larger than the Skin was formed of Stout Sticks and the Skin spread taught in it. The spreading of the Skin being compleated it was placed against a tree when the women with a mussel shell notched round the edge like a saw skraped it for about two hours frequently wetting it untill the Skin became as thin as Parchment: when all the Blood oil &c being clean off it was laced quite tight to the Frame and Placed over the Fire where we suppose it remained till next morning—when they brought them off and we Purchased them very cheaply together with a good dress of the Sea Otter Skins,—we continued however to Proceed up the Harbour with the boat, one of the Natives accompanying us, in hopes to see more Indians or to Procure some Wild Fowl: several miles, and Passed through many fine Basons and Coves: but tho' we saw a great deal of Geese and Ducks we only got one, it being the Breeding Season they where wild in the Extreme. We Shott a Wite Bodied Eagle which was as big as a hen turkey, and a Small Bird of the size of a thrush whose wing and tail Feathers where a fine blue on a Brown Spotted Body: and it had a tuft of Feathers on its head. It was near a Run of Fresh water and we take it be a species of the Kingsfisher—¹

At 6 oclock this morning we weighed the Anchor and it being Calm the Boats towed the Ship out of the Harbour (which from the Quantities of seals we saw in it we called Seal Harbour) Intending to Proceed round the South End and examine the East shore having had information from the natives of a Tribe whose chiefs name is Shakes, living some-

¹ Probably the osprey, *Pandion haliaëtus*, and the belted kingfisher, *Megascery alcyon* (information from I. McT. Cowan, University of British Columbia).

53° 13' N

where in the Sound, formed by Bank's Island and the Main, who the Indians said had plenty of Nickees. At noon the Latt. was as per Margin South End of Bank's Island bearing ESE 7 miles—

Wednesday
24th:

Last evening we came abreast of the South End of the Island and saw several openings formed by many small Woody Isles and Rocky Islets: but as it was nearly calm, we stood off and on for the Short night and at daylight stood in with a moderate Breeze from the Southward and under an easy sail with a Boat ahead Sounding to get within the Island. Having passed through between several Isles and apparently in a fair way at 9 o'clock being in the narrowest Strait,¹ through which the Ebb tide run very rapid, the Ship Grounded on a Sunken Rock in the middle of the Channel and hung on the rock abreast the Fore chains: all the Guns where immediately run from Forward close aft there being seven fathoms water under her stern, the Long Boat hoisted out and sent with an hawser to an Island near us: the tide leaving the Ship fast she had slewed two feet forward and her stern Proportionally sunk in the water: owing to the strength of the tide it was half an hour before we could get the Hawser fast: when heaving a few minutes she launched off, appearing not to have received the Least damage. The Sudden transition from Gloomy Prospects to this Joyful event may be better conceived than Expressed. Had she remained fast a short time longer (in all Probability) the vessel would have Been lost: as it blew fresh all the afternoon and at high water had increased to an hard Gale which blew right on the rock. With Grateful hearts, we thank God, it is

¹ Bishop evidently had survived Calamity Bay to enter Otter Passage which 'may be navigated by any handy vessel but either local knowledge or close attention to the chart is necessary as the strong tidal streams, the large number of islands in the passage, and the lack of aids to navigation may be confusing to a stranger' (*British Columbia Pilot* (Ottawa, 1961), II, 223). In a Protest of 22 April 1796, the relevant passage of which is not reproduced in the text (see below, p. 159), Bishop told the more exact truth: 'Just before the Ship Struck, the wind died away almost to a Calm, and the boat was desired to take hold of a Rope and tow the Ship through, so that literally She was not sounding at the time though she had been before.'

1795]

ON THE N.W. COAST

not so, for we are now lying in a snug haven, ALL WELL—to be cast away on this Wretched, Savage coast, would probably end a Life with misery! indeed.

Having sailed up the Sound about 20 miles to the N West Thursday 25th: and it coming on thick rainy weather we run in to a Cove on the NE side and anchored at 6 o'clock yesterday evening in 15 fathoms over a muddy Bottom, and made an Hawser fast to the shore to steady the Ship.¹ Fearful we might pass in this thick weather, Smokett Shake's Tribe: we saw many Islands where Indians have been but not lately:—

In the Morning at 6 o'clock not seeing any Natives we got under weigh, Sailed along the East Shore with the Ship sending a Boat well Man'd & arm'd along the opposite, to look into the Creeks and Inlets for Natives. At Noon we where nearly abreast the North Point of Bank's Island when we have too to wait for the Boat: the Latitude by an In-different observation was 53°: 36' N² with a Large sound full of small Woody Islands opening to us to N East. As soon as the boat was on board we made sail for the North shore of this Sound,³ firing a Gun frequently to alarm any Indians near of the Arrival of a ship—

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon being near the N. West Point of the Sound we bore up and Passed several small Islands and Rocky Islets and running in about 2 miles came to a snug Harbour formed by Islands and land locked all round Except a small opening in N East where we anchored in 24 fathoms on the N West side over a muddy Bottom.⁴ The Whale Boat well man'd and Arm'd was dispatched under the charge of the 1st: officer through the opening in the N East with orders

¹ Bishop was in Principe Channel, between Banks and Pitt Islands.

² In fact 53° 38' N.

³ Beaver Passage.

⁴ In speaking of the 'N. West Point of the Sound' Bishop seemingly implied that he had entered it. But he meant the north-west point of the entrance to the sound, that is, the south-west point of South Spicer Island, at 53° 44' N. The *Pilot* indicates no likely anchorage in the area. Shakes Islands, no doubt named after this chief, lie between Dolphin Island and the southern side of the eastern extremity of Goschen Island.

to return before Dark, and myself went to haul the Seine, but without Success. At 9 o'clock the Boat returned when Mr. Williams the Officer gave an *account* of his having fell in with a Cannoe full of People after he had rowed three miles up in an East direction. They informed him they belonged to Smokett Shakes and that they had *Quan Nuckee's* (Plenty of Otter Skins) and would be down alongside tomorrow.

Saturday 27th. A Cannoe was seen this Morning Paddling through the opening, when they landed on the Point and after waiting Some time began to Hoop and hollow. A Boat was dispatched to them with Proper Peace Offerings, and conducted her aboard bringing the Chief in the Boat. He was an Old infirm man and appears to be the third in Power from Shakes, his name Eskinnia. They brought several Skins of the Sea Otter and the Chief himself was dressed in a Cottsack¹ composed of 24 beautiful small Skins, a shinning brown mixed with yellow and tails like Foxes, but with the Skin, much Smaller. He came avowedly to Examine the Ship, her Crew and the Articles of trade, sent by the Great Smokett, (Shakes). After Breakfasting with us he Asked my Name, then throwing off his dress at my Feet Said Tinkasta, (I give it you) Smokett! Our Presents of course where Suitable, the rest of the skins being purchased. They took their departure highly Gratified Promising to bring the Huen Smokett (Great Chief) down to the Ship—

In the Afternoon, Shakes in a large Cannoe Paddled by 20 men with his two Wives, his Son, and Several Other chiefs, Attended by 2 Large cannoes full of Arm'd Men, and the Cannoe which had been with us in the Morning, came Paddling down to the Ship, Singing, with Great Melody, in which every voice but the chief joined, the Song of Peace. Being arrived alongside they lay on their Paddles some time viewing the Hu'en Clue, (GREAT SHIP). Shakes appear'd to be about 40 years of age and was of a respectable Figure, but the

¹ A cloak. The word is variously spelled; R. Brown insists that *Kootsik* is the proper form (in *The Adventures of John Jewitt* (London, 1896), 76 n.).

Small Pox with which he was Covered, though it appeared to be in the latest stages of the disorder, rendered him a Piteous object: nevertheless after some invitation he came on board and Giving me a Fraternal Embrace, (a ceremony I thought Proper not to decline) Presented a dress of those Skins I have before spoke of—a Laced Hatt and a Silver hilted sword where Presents suitable in return, and highly Gratifying to the Chief, who after being regaled with Biscuit and Butter and a few Glasses of wine retired to his Cannoe, and the Trade commenced, an old good Humered Blind (but cunning Man) conducting the whole of it, for all the Cannoes, who would sell nothing, till the Goods had been put into his hands, and his Assent given. It was matter of astonishment to us, to see how readily he would find a Flaw in the Iron &c and by feeling the Furs, the Price they ought to fetch. But it being late in the Evening before we began trade, it was dark before we got more than 20 Skins when the Cannoes left us Promising to return next day. In retiring they Sang a different Song than they did before but Equally agreeable to the ear: the Old Blind Man standing up and giving the Burthen or Chorous. They where answer'd from the Ship by nine loud cheers which the Sorrounding hills re echoed to each other.—

About 10 o'clock Shakes with his attendants came on board Sunday 28th: but with less state than he did yesterday, and we Purchased many Prime Skins and dresses and without Clamour, the Trade being conducted by the Blind man as before to the Satisfaction of the Indians and ourselves. At noon the Cannoes went away very peaceably having Sold all their Furs. In the Afternoon there being no Indians near the ship a Party consisting of 9 People went to Hunt the Bear or to kill Deer having seen many tracks of these Animals near the Watering Places, but after Traversing the woods o'er a considerable Space returned without meeting any Success—

These Indians are the same in their Dresses, Manners and Ornaments with those of Queen Charlotte Islands, but not

having been visited By Ships often they are not so knowing and Clammorous and of Course the skins purchased proportionally cheap. The Women here have the same horrid practice of disfiguring the under Lip with those of the Islands. We have shott several Eagles, who are about the Size of a Turkey, and do not Eat disagreeable. Their skins are covered thickly under the outside Feathers with very fine Down, and I found it highly pleased the Chief to give him the skins: it being reckoned an uncommon fineness in their Dress to have it together with their hair, strew'd over with the down of Birds.

July-
Thursday 9th:

This month began, with us, with wett uncomfortable weather and Gales of wind and has continued with intervals of Moderate Breezes and Calms to this time. We remained trading with Shakes and his People till saturday the 4th. when having increased our Stock of Furs considerably and bought all they had we Sailed for the next Tribe whose chief is Kinnieu. Shakes and his People where not a little Glad when we made them sensible that we should return in 2 months and visit them again and we parted with some degree of Friendship, mutually satisfied with Each other. This Harbour bearing no name in our charts we call Port Teast. Its Latt is 53° 42' N Observed in the Entrence. From what we could understand from the Natives no Ship had ever been there before us, but they knew a Captain Ingreem who had traded in 1791-2 on this Coast, from Boston.¹ As Shake's dominions are very Extensive and Contain many good Harbours and inlets, the Principal buisness is to look out for one near the residence of the Chief as in that Situation you are shure of Procureing the Furs of the whole Tribe, and in this respect the Season must be consulted, for they shift their Habitations often, we having fell in with several evacuated villiges. In the Spring and Early in the Summer the natives are found near the outside coast for taking the Hallibut and other Ground fish, but when the Salmon go up the Freshes to Spawn they shift to the narrows and falls for Procuring their winters Stock of this delicious food.

¹ Captain Joseph Ingraham of the *Hope*.

On Saturday afternoon being quite Clear of Port Teast with a Fresh Gale from the S East we where going very rapidly to the N West. At the distance of three miles from the shore we passed close by Several Sunken Rocks seen only in time to Steer the Ship clear of them, and having run about seven leagues we hauld in to the N East and got withr. a Chain of Islands,¹ and as thick weather came on fast upon us we anchored off a Sandy beach in 10 fathems water within the Islands *distant* from the Shore $\frac{1}{4}$ mile---this weather continuing we did not get under weigh again till Monday, dureing which time we hauled the Seine and caught some good Fish. We where visited by a cannoe beloning to Shakes who where hunting the otter and had taken two whose Skins we bought.

Monday at 10 oclock we got under weigh with a light breeze but before we had proceeded 4 miles to the N West it came on thick weather with a Calm and having observed several Reefs and Rocks about the Sound we anchored again near a woody Island, and sailed again with Moderate breezes and clearer weather Early Tuesday Morning and having Proceeded about six leagues to the NNW passing several Islands we came over to the North Shore of the Sound² and it falling Calm with the flood tide against us the Ship was towed in to a fine Sandy bay where we anchored and the next morning the wale Boat was dispatched to look for natives, having observed many places lately visited by them: at 8 oclock they came on-board bringing a Cannoe with 4 men in her beloning to Smokett Kinnieu's tribe who having recieved some trifling Presents left us to go and inform the Chief of the Arrival of a ship, but just as they where gone from the Ship an otter appear'd near them which they persued a Considerable distance and at last took it. Meeting with this Success and getting into the Spirit of the Chace, they continued their Game Without side the Ship 'till late in the Afternoon, when

¹ Bishop presumably had come round the north-west of Porcher Island into Chatham Sound. Certainly the southern portion of the latter must be 'the Sound' mentioned without introduction in the following paragraph.

² Probably the south-west coast of Digby Island or thereabouts; the Kinahan Islands, perhaps named after 'Kinnieu', lie south of Digby Island.

they came along side with two large and three small otters besides several Seals the whole of which was offered for sale, but the skins being raw, we made signs to them to take them up to their women and let them dress them, and bring these together with their other Furs in the morning & we would purchase them all.—But this morning we were not a little mortified to find that they had only landed a little way from the Ship, to dress those Skins which they offered yesterday and which was brought alongside this Morning cured. We should now have Sailed if there had been any wind and the natives seeing this, made signs very fervently not to go, and Paddled away with great haste promising to bring down (Quan Nickees) Plenty of skins. In consequence of this, I have resolved at all Events to lay here till tomorrow morning. Wherever we land we find the tracks of the bear the Wolf and the Deer but are never so successful as to fall in with our Game altho' we hunt with no small degree of Spirit. We get plenty of Fish with the Seine and now and then shoot Wild Fowl, but no vegetable worth Eating.

Friday 10th
54° 19' N

We waited for these People 'till 10 o'clock and not seeing them got under weigh with moderate breezes and Serene weather and made all sail to the N West keeping in the middle of a Range of Islands to the S West¹ and the Land to the N East and at noon where opening a Sound which bears the Name of Stephen's Sound in Captain Mears Chart:² our Latitude was at noon as per Margin—This day Adam Peterson a good Seaman, was taken ill of a slight fever. This was the man who hurt himself in the Gale of wind mentioned in Page 35.³ He had repeatedly complained of a tenderness about the Part in his head where he recieved the blow, but the Surgeon could not discover that any thing was materially affected by it. The few fine days we have are embraced with Pleasure. The People dry their cloaths, and the ship is hung round with the Skins, and we have the satisfaction to find none damaged in those Chests we have pack'd.

¹ From north to south, Rachel Islands, Alexandra Bank, and Lucy Islands.

² Chatham Sound north of Brown Passage.

³ See above, p. 47.

In this Evening it blowing fresh with thick weather coming on we bore up to the Northward and run 5 or 6 miles up Stephens Sound and anchored in 30 fathems close to the Rocks to which we fastened an Hawser, and this Morning a Boat well man'd was dispatched to seek for Natives, and at noon she returned when Mr Williams gave an Account of seeing many places where Indians had been, Some of them lately. This induced us to Proceed with the Ship up the Sound in hopes of finding out their habitations, and we run up about 10 miles farther when it fell calm and continued so all night: we could not Procure Soundings with 100 Fathems of Line altho' within 200 fathems of the Shore and the boat had 60 fathems up and down with the Rocks. The amazing high mountains hanging over us, their Tops covered with Snow, and the water gushing down in Perpendicular streams formed a Cold, rude, and unpleasant scene.

Sunday 12th:

In the Morning at daylight we got a Breeze from the N West with fairer weather, and an Arm of the Sound taking that direction we resolved to beat up it, and try to find Anchorage in a Sandy bay about 5 miles from us.¹ Having nearly reached this place a Canoe was observed close in with the Rocks having three men in her: we called and beckoned to them to Come on board in vain. They appear'd wild and fearful in Extreme. A Boat was dispatched to them, and desirous of giving them confidence to venture on board no Arms were Put into her. As she approached them they kept waving their Paddles not to come near but seeing the boat persist they landed on the rock and arming themselves with Spears Stood ready to recieve them as an enemy. Upon seeing the defenceless state of the boat, they became less fearful and the chief embraced the officer, but no inducement he could offer was sufficient to get them to venture onboard: they made Signs however if we would Anchor in the bay that they would come tomorrow. This we did and moor'd as before with an Hawser to the Shore.

¹ Bishop was in the area between Revillagigedo Channel and Portland Inlet. Wales Passage, on the eastern side of Wales Island, would seem to have been the sound he entered.

Monday 13th: This morning being very fine and we having discover'd that the upper deck was becoming very leaky it was embraced to caulk the deck after which we payed it all over with Tar and Rosin: at noon a large canoe containg 15 People came off to us and Sold many fine skins and Cloaks of Fur. It is a doubt with us, wether these People had ever seen a vessel before. They wore, by far, the most savage wild appearance I have ever seen. The variety of articles of trade on board the ship made them difficult and fickle in their Barter: the Place they came from was called by them Nash and we believe it is about 10 or 12 miles up a River which appears to be fresh water lying in N East direction from the Ship.¹ These People did not sell all their Furs but left us in the Evening and went on Shore in the bay where they Slept.

Tuesday 14 Early in the morning these Indians came off and haistily sold their remaining skins, and then left us with a Promise to return the next day with more. Our People where variously Employed: the Carpenters making new topmasts, dureing the rest of this fine day. Peterson is very ill: the Fever has left him but he has been delerious this two days, and we have great apprehensions for his life. We get some fish here, but not in abundance, and Procure among the woods some Pleasant Berries, much like those in England, commonly called uckle berries.²

Wednesday 15th: The weather is warm, calm, and pleasant. We saw no natives to day and should have sailed had a Breeze sprung up being desirous of getting on to the Northward before the NW Winds set in—

Thursday 16th This morning we where about sailing when a Cannoe came up the Sound and shortly afterwards a nother made its

¹ The Nass River empties into Portland Inlet at Nass Bay; the settlement in question might have been there or nearer the present Nass Villages, five-six miles upstream. Bishop's remarks about physiognomy obviously are subjective, although, in contrast to the southern tribes, the Tsimshian were 'extremely broad in face with small, often concave noses' (C. D. Fordé, *Habitat, Economy and Society* (London, 1963), 72).

² A huckleberry did grow on the coast, *Vaccinium ovatum* (Brown in Jewitt, 14).

appearance. They came alongside with a great deal of confidence and the Chief presented me with a Curious carved wooden mask. These where indeed a very different people¹ from those who where on board Tuesday, possessing a Gentleness of manners as conspicuously as the others where noted for their wild and Savage appearance. From the chief we learned that they where in a State of Hostility with these People and that they Eat their Captives. This was spoken with such an air of detestation that I believe this chief does not join the Horrid Feasting: altho' the mask he presented is adorned with teeth.² Dureing the day we carried on a brisk trade to the mutual satisfaction of BOTH Parties. These People appeared to have seldom seen a Ship by their curiosity and suprize at the various movements Exhibited. They however understood the use of Powder and Arms. These articles formed the Principal medium of our Barter.

At 8 o'clock not seeing any Indians we sailed with light breezes from the Southward and proceeded up this N West Branch about 4 miles when we came into another Sound lying in a South and North Direction. We where assured of finding a Passage either into the Great Sound called Bucclugh's or out to Sea, the Ebb tide taking its course through the N West Branch.³ We had proceeded above two miles to the Southward when those People who had been with us last

¹ Bishop was just about at the junction of the territories of the Tsimshian, the Haida, and the Tlingit peoples. If this group came from the Tlingit, it was Bishop's only contact with those people on his way westward to return to the northern Haida.

² The question of cannibalism among the British Columbia tribes which so engrossed Bishop is difficult to elucidate. Cannibal rites bound members of one category of the secret societies which existed generally among the tribes: but just when which tribes had such a society is impossible to say (Boas, *R. B. A. S.* (1898), 674-8). Moreover, at least among some societies, human flesh was eaten not in delight, but in horror (R. Benedict, *Patterns of Culture* (London, 1949), 128-9) and this might have explained the reactions of Bishop's informant. Undoubtedly the Europeans exaggerated, if they did not invent, evidences of cannibalism; the Indians would seem to have realized this fear, and to have played upon it.

³ If earlier identifications are correct, Bishop now entered the southern end of Pearse Canal, which runs south-west to north-east. He then sailed south-west between Wales Island and Fillmore Island. Bucclugh's Sound was the expanse between the mainland and the southern end of Prince of Wales Island.

Tuesday over took the ship in two Canoes laden with Furs. This was too valuable a Prize not to stay for. We therefore Anchored in a Fine Sandy bay on the S East Shore, and during the rest of the day and Saturday we traded with them, when in the evening they took their departure, having sold all the Furs of any Value.

We caught young Salmon with the Seine and Hallibut with the Hook and line. Some of the latter weighed upwards of 100 lbs. We also shott two large Birds of the Size of a Hen turkey. These had a long Neck, legs, and very large Wings. The bill was like a Woodcocks (Proportionably larger) and they had over the top of their heads a covering of red rough Skin without feathers on it: they have a very small Swallow and makes a noise like a Buck in the Rutting Season. These Proved very Excellent eating.

Sunday 19th This morning at 2 o'clock, Adam Peterson died regretted by the whole crew. He had been delerious for the Last 6 days, but became Somewhat Sensible a few hours previous to his dissolution. At 11 o'clock a Grave having been provided his remains where Put into a Coffin and Carried to its last home with every respect and Ceremony our circumstances afforded. A Bottle with a Piece of written Parchment closed up in it was deposited near it, and after the Grave was filled up, a Fire was made over it to Prevent the Indians discovering the Spott 'whose cold Turf hides our burried Friend'.¹ To dispel the Gloom which such an event naturally raised in the Crew, after the Ship was cleaned, Prayers where read, which produced the desired effect, and in the Evening it being Calm, hauling the Seine and other diversions took Place.

We have found these Sounds by no means so healthy as the Sea Coast. They are very cold, and damp, the Land being very high and covered with snow, which at this season, from the heat of the Sun, being melted, pours down the Rocks with great violence and causes a Continual fog and mist to

¹ William Collins, 'Ode Occasion'd by the Death of Mr. Thomson 1749' (properly 'the', not 'our').

arise out of the Woods. Hence Cold Chills and Sore throats are frequent amongst us.

It was not 'till this morning that we got clear of that Desolate and intricate sound. We came out through a multitude of small Woody Islands and rocky Islets, (our Passage at the Entrance not being 150 yards wide*) about 9 miles to the N West of the Arm we entered into it.¹ At one of the coves we anchored in, we caught, at one Cast, of the Seine, upwards of 450 fine Salmon. They where in such Abundance in the Shallow water near a fall of Fresh, that scarce a Spot of the Ground could be discerned but we saw no Indians since last Saturday. We are now Endeavouring to get to Haine's cove in Port Mears, where are a Socciable Tribe of Indians whose Chief in 1793 was Kowe.²

Sunday morning after a night of Light variable Winds we found ourselves between Cape Farmer (the S East Extreme of Bucclughs sound) and Petries Island (the N West Isle of Earl Chathams Range).³ There are many rocks and rocky Islets lying off Cape Farmer, some of them 4 or 5 Leagues out and we Experienced a diversity of Tides, which cannot be wondered at when Several Sounds and rivers Empty themselves into this Extensive opening. Cape Farmer appers to be about 8 Leagues from Cape Murry (the N West Extreme of this Sound).⁴ The People, all in good health, attended Prayers this Morning.

¹ Presumably Bishop had come into Nakat Bay at Port Tongass, skirting Tongass reef, the northern extremity of which is at 54° 47' N., 130° 44' W. If so he was much closer to due west than north-west of the entrance to Wales Passage. But he was north-west of the entrance to Portland Inlet, to which he probably referred. Bishop had passed into modern Alaska.

² Port Meares was the area between Long Island and Dall Island. It is difficult to tell what Bishop and/or William Douglas (whose directions he now followed) meant by several locations given in the following paragraphs: Haines Cove is the first such problem. Bishop no doubt learned of Kowe through Baker. J. W. Adamson likewise had followed this lead; Kowe had slept on his ship and helped him collect many furs (Howay and Elliott, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, 30, 205).

³ Cape Farmer was one of the northern points of Dundas Island; Bishop meant by it the westerly one, Armiston Point. Petries Island was Zayas Island. 'Earl Chatham's Range' is vague, but obviously Dundas Island was the central constituent, for Bishop if not for Douglas.

⁴ Point Nunez or Cape Chacon, probably the former.

Monday 27th 54 Yesterday in the afternoon it fell light winds and an ugly swell setting in on the Land together with a very thick fog, rendered our Situation very unpleasant and dangerous. However at Sunset it clear'd away when we saw several Rocks on which the Sea broke with raging violence and which probably we Passed clear of in the Fog. Driven by the Current, for there was not sufficient wind to Command the Steerage of the Ship, we continued plying all night to the Westward with Gentle breezes from the Southward, and at daylight this morning where close over to the West Shore of this (sea like, Sound).¹ At 9 o'clock we heard the Report of a Gun and shortly afterwards heard the noise and Saw the Smoke of a Second: when we observed with a Glass a Canoe Paddling out from under the High Western Land. The ship was tacked and we Stood towards her when very soon after the Canoe came alongside. She was Paddled by 3 men, and a Forth with a great Coat and round-Hatt on sat in the middle: He came on board with Confidence and taking me by the Hand Said 'How do you do Sir.' 'Cluto (ship) be England King George Cluto.' 'He be Boston Cluto.' When answer'd it was an English ship He expressed great Satisfaction. He now told us his Name, Illtadza, said He was chief, Equal to Kowe 'and lived at the same place at a nother villige'. He also informed us of Captain Moore's having been there: but had Sailed a good while ago: he also mentioned another Captain. He promised us a Large Quantity of Furs: In the afternoon the breeze Springing up Fresh he ordered the Canoe away being fearful of having her upset by the volosity of the Ship through the water! Staying on board himself to accompany us to Port Mears, his place of residence: during the Evening and all night it blew Fresh from the S West with Thick Foggy weather: and altho' we kept Plying pretty close in Shore we did not see the Land till Daylight when it Ceas'd up. We found we had gained but little Ground, owing to a South Easterly Current, Port Mears bearing West 4 or 5 Leagues.

¹ I.e. the east shore of Prince of Wales Island.

Illtadza knows Captain Adamson of Mr Teast Ship the Jenny, and Counted 12 moons since he was at Port Mears, where he got 'Quan Nuckees'.¹

As we were beating across the Sound to get within Cape Irvin² where the Chiefs Kowe and Illtadza has their Summers residence a Canoe under Sail full of People boarded us. The Chief was the Person mentioned in Mears voyages to the N West America who Exchanged names with Captain Douglas when he first discovered this Large Tribe.³ Upon his approaching the ship he called out 'Douglas Con nee ha', 'whats' YOUR Name'. Upon being answered he said he had no skins to sell but that he was going to Shakes upon a trading Expidaton. Being presented with a trifling Present he took his departure. Illtadza told us Douglas Con nee ha was chief of the whole district, and that himself and Kowe where the next but where all united under the command of the 'Huen Smokett' Douglas Con nee ha. At six o'clock in the Evening we anchored at Port Mears in 26 fathoms water distant from the shore $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Cape Irvin bearing SEBE $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Kowe and his Family came off in a Jolly boat which a Captain 'Hubbuts' (Roberts) had given him. The Chief instantly Presented me with 2 Rare Furs of the Sea Otter, and the Jolly Boat. Said Captain 'Moore' and Captain 'Lukwanny' (Lewberry)⁴ had been there before us and he had Sold most of his nuckees, but nevertheless, when we had bought all that was at 'Cye Ganny' as he called his Town,⁵ he would conduct the Ship to where we should get Plenty of Trade. Kowe slept on board, and the next morning and during the whole day we carried on a Brisk Trade for some of the best Furs we had hitherto seen.

¹ Adamson was in fact in this region in August-September 1794, and, as noted, did have much success.

² Cape Irving, i.e. Cape Muzon.

³ For an account of how Douglas's name survived, see Dawson, 160. The original contact is described in Mears, 366-7.

⁴ These three names in brackets are written above the originals, having been inserted at a later date. Roberts was master of the *Despatch*, of the *Phoenix*, and Newbury (not 'Lewberry') of the *Despatch*.

⁵ Kaigani. The present Kaigani Harbour is on Dall Island almost directly opposite the southern tip of Long Island, that tip itself now being known as Kaigani Point. The village was at the Harbour.

Kowe staid on board and Enforced the trade to our advantage. He also informed us that Comswa (mentioned in Page 46)¹ had Cuit off a Brig beloning to Boston the Captain's name Paulin or 'Pullen' (Berleig)² and Killed all the Crew but one man, a Sailor, which he keeps at his house, that as soon as they see a ship apper they Put him in a cave in Irons. Indeed we had Observed when we where there and at the Sound before we came there, that these Indians where uncommonly Bold and Impudent, their large cannoes full of Fire arms and Spears, and where ready no doubt to snatch any advantage over us that might offer. As it was we where on our Guard, but had we known this Event it would of doubled our vigilance and after they had disposed of their Skins should have availed ourselves of the favourable opportunity of seizing this bloody Chief as he staid on board some time after the rest where gone on shore, and kept him 'till they brought off the Poor Sailor, whose heart no doubt must have Sunk within him when we fired Guns as signals for trade.

Thursday 30th

This morning Kowe informed me that had sold all their Furs at Cye Ganny and advised that we should get under weigh and Proceed up the N West Branch of the Sound. This we did with a Strong Breeze from the S East and in the afternoon having run about 35 miles up we sailed into a Snug Bason Landlocked all round on the S West Shore, and moor'd to the trees on Each side the Cove.³

This large tribe, in the summer is divided into distinct Familys the head of Each being a Petty Chief, and reside in seperate Coves and Creeks where they procure their Winter food, all of them at this season being full of Fine Salmon, and for their winter Quarters I am Informed that several Families uniting look out for a Small Island near the Main where they build their houses on Stages formed by the fell'd Trees.⁴ This

¹ See above, p. 64.

² In fact, one supposes, Burley or Burlleigh. The ship was the *Resolution*; see below, p. 97.

³ Bishop had proceeded up the east coast of Dall Island.

⁴ This account was essentially correct: see Forde, 72-4.

is their Strong hold. They here defy the Attack of their Enemies. We have seen many of these Islands which appear like so many Forts, and there are two in the N West branch of this Sound, one beloning to chief Called Clush Keese.

These Indians are the most Sociable Quiet Honest and cleanly we have before seen. Kowe is about 36 years of age, an handsome Robust Figure. His Actions bespeak him an affectionate Husband and Father, and tho' Gentle and Easy with his Friends, not wanting in Spirit to commit the most horrid Acts of revenge upon his Enemies. From his living with me on board and sleeping in the Cabbin, I have learned much of their manners and mode of Life. It appears that when a Chief dies his children do not inherit the fathers office, but his brother and so on till they are all Dead. It then takes its right through the Male Issue of the Eldest sister¹ and on in Succession through the Family, and in Case of default an Election takes Place in another Family. They mostly have but one wife, however the Chiefs tread out of the Common road and Kowe has his Trio. The women seldom have more than four children, scarcely ever five and Six is a Prodigy. When told that the Queen had borne 16 they would hardly credit the assertion,² and being informed that myself was one of eleven they surveyed me with great attention repeating the account to each other for some time. There women as well as those at Charlotte Isles and Shakes Sound have the under lip perforated, some few of them Excepted, and there where Generally Ladies of Easy access, but this Tribe both Men and women possess more native modesty than we have hitherto met and are infinitely Superiour to the Southern Tribes both in Manners and Persons. They are very numerous, and where much more so before the small Pox which raged here a few years since, and by Kowes Account, swept off two thirds of the People, scarcely any that where affected Survived— They understand the use of Fire Arms well and Kowe himself is reckoned the Best Marksman among them. Of this we

¹ Bishop correctly described matrilineal descent.

² Charlotte Sophia, wife of George III, in fact had fifteen children.

had a Proof. He shot 2 Large Geese at a single shot: leaving only one Flying. Kowe informed us that as soon as Trade was over and the 'Huen Clews' great Ships where all gone and they had Provided their winters Store of Fish, that the whole tribe united where going to attack Comswa in a fleet of Thirty War Canoes and requested if we should touch there not to Sell them Powder Musketts and Ball. The Cause of this Expedition is Kowe sometime since sent a Canoe in which was his brother and one of his Wives on a trading Errant to a tribe near Comswas and while they where there, comswa attacked these People and subdued them. He also seized Kowes canoe and Killed his Wife Brother and the Crew. Kowe has been at some pains even during the time he has been on board of us to rouse the Chiefs to Revenge, and Douglas Con nee ha (the great Smokett) is gone to Shakes as well to trade as to win him over to join them, or to stand nuter. These People Kowe asured me are not Cannibals, but that they Cut the heads of their Enemies and Scalping them. When cleaned the Sculls are deposited in their great houses as trophies of their Prowess and Victory.

We cannot help wishing him success and victory over Comswa and his Bloody Tribe. Kowe seems confidant of it and Promises to take care of the Poor Sailor if they find him alive, and we even made him asure us that altho' Comswa should oblige him to fight against Kowe, He should not fall in cool Blood.

Friday 31st:

This day we carried on the briskest trade and Procured more good Furs than we have in any one day since being on the Coast. Nor was it attended by that noise and uproar which in general we have found. We where mutually satisfied with each others Exchange and for this we are much indepted to Kowe who easily settled all the trifling disputes which arise on Such an occasion

I am conformed in my opinion that there are no Human beings without an object of religious adoration. I have Seen

many and various. These People know nothing of the Immortality of the Soul. They think when they die they cease to be, or to express it in their own words they are 'Illewe', ALL gone. Yet they believe there is a God which is Called by them Eds-wee, that He is very good, lives in a Great House and that he never dies.¹ I remember to have heard one of their Songs of which Eds'wee was the Burthen. This is all we have heard of their Religion and as Kowe is an intelligent Fellow I took some Pains to inform him what our conceptions where in this respect. He seem'd much delighted and heard me with Great Attention when I said that If He was good and died and I was also and died, that we should meet and talk and live in Gods House, but if we where 'Pee shae' bad, God would throw us in fire where we should be 'Illewe'

Yesterday and to day we have continued trading and I believe have pretty well Stripped them of their stock of Furs. Kowe told me this Evening there was no more. In consequence we Prepared to sail, hauled the seine and caught about 300 Fine Salmon.

Sunday
2^d August

Yesterday we sailed from the Cove and beat down about half way the sound and then Anchored on the West shore for the night and this morning Proceeded again being off the N East Branch.² Kowe who continued to accompany us, advised that we should proceed up this arm to a Cove where he said we should get some trade, the only place that had not disposed of their Furs. At 6 in the Evening we run into a snug Bason on the N West shore and moor'd to the trees. Kowes Family

¹ Dawson affirmed that the Haida believed in both a supreme deity, and a happy after-life for those distinguished in battle. Boas spoke of their worship of the sun and the moon, but distinguished between this and the worship of a god, such as that practised by the Tsimshian. Moreover, both authorities maintained that the Haida believed in the transmigration of souls from the deceased to the new-born (Dawson, 121-2; Boas, *R.B.A.A.S.* (1888), 241). Bishop was probably right about 'Eds'wee', but perhaps incapable of grasping the concept of transmigration. Alternatively, the Kaigani Haida might not have shared this latter concept with their southern fellows; possibly, again, such versions of Christianity as Bishop propagated helped to develop the notion and also that of an after-life.

² By the 'north-east branch' Bishop presumably meant the channel between Sukkwan Island and Prince of Wales Island.

Tuesday 4th:

met him here, they it seems had been busily Employed since we left Kye Ganny in preparing the Rinds of the Fir Trees for to cover their Winters Habitation, making Matts &c and had got a very large canoe loaded with these materials

Sunday 9th:

Kowe has been as good as is Word. We have Procured a nother lot of very fine Furs. Hitherto this Chief has never deceived us: he yesterday took his Farewell and was saluted with three Guns, accompanied with three loud cheers which every person onboard most heartily joined in. Kowe when leaving the ship Embraced me and could hardly refrain from tears. His Friendly Manners awakened very affectionate sensations in the minds of the whole Crew, and even the sailors where Eager to bestow some mark of their regard upon him, while He lamented only that he had nothing to return.

At 3 o'clock this morning we weighed with light breezes from the N East and as we where Proceeding out a Cannoe boarded us, and haistily sold 12 Sea Otter skins and then left us. One of her People concealed himself in the Ship and was not discover'd 'till the Cannoes where Gone on shore. Being Questioned with respect to his intent he said he wanted to go and see 'King Georges England'. However as most likely we shall winter to the Southward and not leave the coast this season, and as there is a Trafic in those Parts which it is our Interest these People should not know, as well as the People to the Southward should not be informed of the Exchange we make here, I thought Proper to decline keeping him on board and it appears a Policy of some extant in his Brother Illradza in sending him, as I had before told Illradza that we should not leave the Coast this season and when to Expect to see me here again. And in the afternoon it Came on to blow hard from the S East, we run into a snug Bay on the West Shore and Anchored mooring her as usual to the trees.

Tuesday 11th:

It blew an heavy Gale all yesterday accompanied with rain from the S East. A canoe came into the Cove and we took this Opportunity of sending our volenteer away, who could

not be perswaded to go before we made a Promise to ship him next year when homward bound. It moderated in the night and this morning at 4 o'clock we sailed with Gentle Breezes and fair Weather from the Northward—this day is embraced to dry our lately Purchased Furs and the Ship is hung round with upwards of 300 Excellent Skins.—

It may not be amiss to observe here that the Russians From Kamtschatka are gradually extending their commerce to the Southward along the coast of America. The Natives of Port Mears where visited by one of their Hoys this season but they, accustomed to the Liberal and Spirited manners of British Ships, treated them with the utmost contempt and would not sell a single Fur to them. Indeed one of the Indians Frankly said, that if she had not so many men and musketts in her, some of the Tribes would have attacked her.¹

Wednesday
12th:

We have had fair Weather this last 24 hours with the wind from Westward and have now Sea Otter Sound open to us towards which we are standing² and at noon Cape Irvin bore EbN distant 7 Leagues & N West Extreme of Queen Charlotte's Islands SSE 9 Leagues.

Yesterday we had very unpleasant weather heavy rains and Squalls of wind from the S East. We run along the Shore to the North West 'till 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we hauld off to the S West to Procure an offing before night. At 6 it suddenly clear'd up when we found our selves about 1½ miles from a dangerous ledge of Rocks situated between douglas Island and Cape adamson.³ There being a very heavy swell

Friday 14th:

¹ Under Alexander Baranof's direction the Russians were exploring southward with vigour at this time. Such expeditions as this preceded the establishment of a base at Sitka in 1799. The Russians did treat the Indians roughly: see McCracken, *passim*.

² It is difficult to determine what either Douglas or Bishop meant, but the latter's words suggest Bucareli Bay, or possibly Meares Passage.

³ Bishop had sailed through Dixon Entrance into the open sea. Douglas Island was Forrester Island. Again, Douglas's location of Cape Adamson presents a difficulty, but for Bishop it probably meant Cape Felix or Cape Bartolome. The feature took its original name from the master of the *Jenny*, Douglas's erstwhile colleague.

the sea broke over them with dreadful rage. The breeze coming from the *Westward* enabled us to steer clear of them with a flowing Sheet. This may be reckoned one of those Dangers which a Ship is liable to encounter in a voyage of this Description. The night was one of the most unpleasant we have met with hitherto. The wind veering in sudden Gusts from one Point to its opposite, an heavy swell from the *Westward* with a cross chop of a Sea occasioned by these contrary winds rendered our situation very uncomfortable. Nor did daylight at 4 o'clock bring with it any alteration of weather for the better: it was so thick and rainy that we could not discern the Land in any Quarter and we had been driven about by currents and Contrary winds that we were not able to judge accurately the real position of the Ship.

At 8 o'clock however it clear'd up and the wind veering to N East brought with it fair weather: and at noon we Entered Sea Otter Sound. It fell Calm about 5 o'clock in the Evening, and the boats towed the ship up, but as we could not get to an anchor in safty before it was quite dark, we lay too in the middle of the Sound all night and in the morning towed the ship within an Island on the East Shore and anchored in 26 fathoms over a muddy Bottom, mooring her to the Trees with an Hawser

Saturday 15th.

Tuesday 18th. We continued in this Position 'till Tuesday morning the 18th: without seeing a single Native belonging to this Extensive Sound, altho' every where we landed Fires and Wigwams, some of them lately made, where seen. Sunday night a small Canoe belonging to Kowes tribe, came up the Sound from Port Mears. They had been hunting the otter and had taken two, the skins of which we purchased. We also bought from them a young bear newly killed, which Served the Ships Company a fresh meal, the Flesh of it Eating like venison. These People told us that the tribes where at this Season of the year, divided into distinct Families and resided in seperate branches of the Sound for procuring their winters stock of Salmon and other Food. Kowe had before told us we should get

little trade to the *Northward* and indeed our own observations agreeing in this Particular Induced me here to close our Rout To the *Northward* for this year, intending to Proceed to Port Teast where our Friend Smokett Shakes Promised to await our return with a Large Quantity of Furs, and thence trace the coast to the *Southward* touching at Nootka, Port Cox and other places to Deception Bay where I Propose to continue during the severe winter months, and get Early to our Northern Station in the Ensuing year.—At 4 o'clock this morning we sailed with moderate Breezes from the N West and at noon the Land bore as follows. Douglas Isle EbS½S 12 miles, Flatt Island with its Rocks SSW 3 miles, S East Extreme of Land EbS½S 6 or 7 Leagues, and distant from the Nearest Land in N East 3 Leagues. Observed the Latt: 55° 00' N—standing to the S East with Gentle Serene Weather, under all Sail—

Friday 21st:

We Where becalmed two whole days between Sea Otter Sound and Port Mears and this morning a Breeze springing up from S East which being foul to Proceed to Port Teast, we hauled in to Hains Cove and Anchored there. Some natives came on board but brought no skins of any consequence. We however learned that Douglas Con nee ha had returned from his voyage to Shakes. One of his people informed me that they did not get a single Fur from Shakes, that chief reserving them for us. He, also, said, he had a large Quantity. Of course this information made us more anxious to get thither and early the following day we sailed with a favourable Breeze from the *Westward*. As the night came on it became very foggy.

We had sailed on an East course per Compass about 25 miles from Cape Irvin, but had not seen any Part of Queen Charlottes Islands.² The course was altered at 8 o'clock to ESE sounding every hour. At 11 o'clock at night we found

¹ A baffling location; almost certainly Bishop's pen has slipped somewhere. Perhaps he meant to give 'Forrester Island', at south by east, half south (or east). If so he could have been at about 55° 05' N., 133° 40' W. Flatt Island is presumably the ledge of rocks he described earlier, and the south-east extreme of land either Cape Augustine or Welcome Point.

² Bishop meant not that he had sailed due east from Cape Muzon, but that he had made this distance east on a south-east course. The subsequent manoeuvres brought him into the north end of Hecate Strait.

Saturday 22^d:

ourselves in 25 fathoms on an hard sand. The Ships head was Pointed to the *Northward* and having run about 6 miles the water had deepened gradually to 75 fathoms when we bore up again and Sailed ENE $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles then sounded in 30 fathoms.—It is to be observed that the only knowledge I have of this coast is collected from the single observations of Captain Douglas in the years 1788–9: and as these, however correct they may be, to sail round Cape Rose¹ and its Shoals in fair weather, when the land can be plainly seen, are of little assistance to us now. We had not any sight, as I observed before, of Cape Rose, or any Part of the Islands and could not judge with accuracy our distance from it, having experienced a Rapid various tide. Of course this night was not passed without anxiety—after Sounding in 30 fathoms, we hauled off NW and NNW and continued under an Easy sail 'till daylight when we were in 70 fathoms. It was very thick weather, but concluding we must be to the *Northward* of the Cape by the Soundings, we sailed till 7 o'clock ENE when it suddenly clear'd away and a Rocky Islet Surrounded with Breakers was seen a Short distance from the Ship bearing ESE. We Passed close by them. The Island was cover'd with Hughe Sea Elephants which made a mournful noise as we sailed rapidly Past them. We discovered here that we were close over to the main and of Course clear of Cape Rose and the Shoals. It continued very foggy to 11 o'clock. We however Sailed with Confidence on a S by W course keeping a Good lookout and sounding frequently which we found to be various from 40 to 70 fathoms. At noon we observed in Latt: of 54° 00' N, the Weather having become quite Clear & Pleasant with a Moderate breeze from WNW. A small Rock was seen bearing N East 10 miles. This was the only land in sight.

Sunday 23^d:

Monday 24th. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Beresfords Isle² which lies to the *Southward* of Banks Island was seen SE by E 6 Leagues

¹ Rose Point is the north-east point of Graham Island, the northern of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

² George Dixon called one or more of the westward Scott Islands 'Ber(es)ford(s) Island': Bishop obviously did not mean to designate this. He probably saw Bonilla Island, which stands in about the same relationship to Banks Island as do the Scott Islands to Vancouver Island.

and soon afterwards the Entrance of Port Teast. The Breeze died away to a Perfect Calm till sunset, when it freshened up from W by SW and blew a Fresh Gale all night. We stood off and on till daylight when we made sail and at 8 o'clock anchored in Port Teast all Well.

Tuesday 25th

About 8 o'clock this morning Shakes attended by 5 Cannoes came singing their Song of Peace alongside, one Person in his canoe standing up and bearing a Green Bough. The Chief with is Brothers and children came on board and Embraced me very friendly. He however shewed no inclination to make me any Present as before. They brought only 4 skins which he wished to exchange for the Jolly boat which Kowe had given me but as this appeared to be matter of trade I demanded ten which after some debate and shewing him the use of her Sails he agree'd to bring tomorrow. He having shewed a great desire for an old Brass Blunderbuss which lay in the Cabin Presented me a very fine skin and was graufied with this object in return. It coming to blow hard from South East with rain, at noon He left us followed by the rest of the Natives.

From some observations this day we have great reason to believe these People are cannibals, for on Mr Williams the chief officer asking some of them for Salmon which lay in their Cannoes, saying 'Lux Tekeeda' (good food) they Said 'Come, Esskie Lux Tekeeda' (no, this is good food) taking hold of his hand and making a sign of eating it.¹ Indeed it appears plainly that however Friendly these Savages may be while they see us so well on our guard and arm'd, yet, no doubt, would eagerly seize any advantage over us which we by Accidents or neglect to our Saftey, might leave in their Power and this is not a small oppression on the minds of the Crew: who look with anxiety to the day when we shall take our departure from these Barbarous coasts. It seems the Small Pox is raging among them and altho' shakes is quite

¹ The Europeans surely were being teased. Their susceptibility and suspicions showed the strain of the business.

recovered, yet his Family are much affected by it and he has buried one of his Wives lately. His Eldest and favourite son is now ill of this terrible disease.

Wednesday
26th.

The Chief with his Brothers & People came on board accompanied by some strange Canoes about 8 o'clock, but brought few furs and them, newly killed. This day these People altered their Friendly disposition towards us, and became so very impudent that it in some measure alarmed us. Shakes having requested me to fire a shotted Great Gun, I thought it a good opportunity to show him how well appointed we were for Defence—and first drawing the shott, we opened the canister and to his Surprise shewed the Contents which was about 60 Pieces of Broken Cast Iron, nobs of Potts, pieces of Coged mill weels &c and then firing it—it Scattered in such a manner as to tear 20 Canoes in Pieces in that Direction. Shakes immediately requested I would give him one to shew the Women. The hint struck us, directly, that the Eannas had been urging them to attack the Ship, more especially as when we were here before we were crowded by them, several wishing to sleep on board, whereas we had seen but one of Shakes Wives since we arrived. We also learned that these People knew of Comswas success, which seems to have operated not a little, as Comswas but a little Tribe compared to Shakes. At noon they left us & seemed more Friendly disposed than when they came on board.

The remainder of this day was Employed in examining the Arms and Putting the Ship in the best posture of Defence we could, being Determined should they attack us to Scatter them, and not to suffer but two out of the Canoes at once—

Sunday 30th

Since Wednesday last we have had rainy blowing weather which is a reason we believe that Shakes has not visited us as we parted on that day, as I have said before, in a Friendly manner. We have however been visited by a Single scout Canoe every day, and each day with different People in her. They stayed an hour or two, perhaps, sold a sea otter Skin

1795]

or two, and always said that the Huen Smokett would be with us the following day, with Plenty of Skins. However if we do not see him tomorrow, I shall sail if the Weather will permit—Prayers where read to the Crew to day who are all in good health.

From the canoe that has visited us lately, we have learned that Douglas Con nee ha is expected by Shakes and that Hydeec, the chief of a Tribe to the Southward of this is now at Shake's House.—

This has been a remarkable fine day, and being in hopes of seeing Shakes we did not Attempt Sailing till it was too late for the favourable Breezes died away to a Calm. We where visited however by the scout canoe as usual with Promises that he would come tomorrow,—TOMORROW (Peeshae).—We are at a loss to account for this behaviour of Shakes as in no instance have we affronted him, and must conclude that he ether has no Furs or to a worse Motive, that of detaining us in this manner till Conneehau with is People join him with a view of attempting the Ship—

We waited yesterday till ten oclock but seeing nothing of the Natives, we sailed and proceeded to the S East between Banks I: and the Main. At 7 in the evening the Weather being Bad with the appearance of a Gale from S East coming on we run into a Cove on N East side and Anchored in 10 fathems about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the shore and 6 miles Within the N West Cape of the Island.¹ At 4 oclock this morning it come on to blow excessive hard with rain. The Jolly boat which was astern of the Ship brok adrift while we where letting go another Anchor to secure the Ship and in a few minutes was dash'd to Pieces. It blew at 6 oclock in such heavy Gusts that the Ship rode very hard altho we where Sheltered by the Land within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the Ship. Some sunken rocks where seen at lowwater within $\frac{1}{2}$ Cable length of our Stern. The ground however where our anchor laid was a good Stiff Clay.

¹ Deadman Inlet would seem the probable location.