

### Cook's Journal entry for November 26 – 30, 1778

Excerpt from James Cook and James King, *A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean...in the Years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780*, 2nd. Ed. 3 vols. G. Nicol and T. Cadell: London, 1785. Newberry call Number: Case fG 13.19 Vol. 2.

Wednes. 25 I continued to steer to the Southward, till day-light in the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>, at which time we were in the latitude of 20° 55'. I now spread the ships, and steered to the West. In the evening, we joined; and at midnight brought to. At day-break, next  
Thursday 26. morning, land was seen extending from South South East to West. We made sail, and stood for it. At eight, it extended from South East to half South, to West; the nearest part two leagues distant. It was supposed that we saw the extent of the land to the east, but not to the west. We were now satisfied, that the group of the Sandwich Islands had been only imperfectly discovered; as those of them which we had visited in our progress northward, all lie to the leeward of our present station.

In the country was an elevated saddle hill, whose summit appeared above the clouds. From this hill, the land fell in a gentle slope, and terminates in a steep rocky coast, against which the sea broke in a dreadful surf. Finding that we could not weather the island, I bore up, and ranged along the coast to the Westward. It was not long before we saw people on several parts of the shore, and some houses and plantations. The country seemed to be both well wooded and watered; and running streams were seen falling into the sea in various places.

As it was of the last importance to procure a supply of provisions at these islands; and experience having taught me that I could have no chance to succeed in this, if a free trade with the natives were to be allowed; that is, if it were left to every man's discretion to trade for what he pleased, and in the manner he pleased; for this substantial reason, I now published an order, prohibiting all persons from trading, except as such should be by me and Captain Clerke; and even these were enjoined to trade only for provisions and refreshments. Women were also forbidden to be admitted into the ships, except under certain restrictions. But the evil I meant to prevent, by this regulation, I soon found, had already got amongst them.

At noon, the coast extended from South 81° East, to North 56° West; a low flat, like an isthmus, bore South 42° West; The nearest shore three or four miles distant; the latitude was 20° 59'; and the longitude 203° 50'. Seeing some canoes come off to us, I brought to. As soon as they got along-side, many of the people, who conducted them, came into the ship, without the least hesitation. We found them to be of the same nation with the inhabitants of the islands more to the leeward, which we had already visited; and, if we did not mistake them, they knew of our having been there. Indeed, it rather appeared to evident; for these people had got amongst them the venereal distemper; and, as yet, I know of no other way it reaching them, but by an intercourse with their neighbors since our leaving them.

We got from our visitors a quantity of cuttle-fish, for nails and pieces of iron. They brought very little fruit and roots; but they told us that they had plenty of them

Friday 27.

on their island, as also hogs and fowls. In the evening, the horizon being clear to the Westward, we judged the Westernmost land in sight to be an island, separated from that off which we now were. Having no doubt that the people would return to the ships the next day, with the produce of their country, I kept plying off all night, and in the morning stood close in to shore. At first, only a few of the natives visited us; but, towards noon, we had the company of a good many, who brought with them bread-fruit, potatoes, taro or eddy roots, a few plantains, and small pigs; all of which they exchanges for nails and iron tools. Indeed, we had nothing else to give them. We continued trading with them till four o'clock in the afternoon, when, having disposed of all their cargoes, and not seeming inclined to fetch more, we made sail and stood off shore.

Monday 30.

While we were lying to, though the wind blew fresh, I observed that the ships drifted to the East. Consequently, there must have been a current setting in that direction. This encouraged me to ply windward, with a view to get round East end of the island, and so have the whole lee-side before us. In the afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup>, being off the North East end of the island; several canoes came off to the ships. Most of these belonged to a Chief named Terreoboo, who came in one of them. He made me present of two or three small pigs; and we got, by barter, from the other people, a little fruit. After a stay of about two hours, they all left us, except six or eight of their company, who choose to remain on board. A double sailing canoe came, soon after, to attend upon them; which we towed astern all night. In the evening, we discovered another island to windward, which the natives call *Owhyhee*. The name of that, off which we had been for three days, we were also told was *Mowee*.