

1792. and children of the labourers, stood in great need of them;\*  
 May 5. and we should, at the same time, be completing our water, which would render it unnecessary for us to stay long at Teneriffe, whenever a favourable wind might enable us to get there. With this view then we brought too a fishing boat, hoping to procure a pilot from it, but were much surprized at all the persons in it refusing to pilot us to an anchorage; as we certainly were not gaining ground, and might be driven further off, if the wind increased, while the majority of the colonists were living on salt provisions only, which if continued would be doubtless very prejudicial to their healths, it was an object of magnitude to anchor where we could procure for them the necessary refreshments; it was therefore determined to stand well in with the land, and then send the jolly boat on shore to endeavour to procure a pilot. This task, like all others, devolved upon me.

I had witnessed in the West-Indies and in South America, in two remarkable instances, to what acts of injustice towards British seamen Spanish governors had been led by the narrow policy of their jealous government. I knew not whether the same rigorous policy was adopted in these islands towards foreigners, as in their more western colonies; but I certainly expected to be imprisoned if I landed, and said so before I left the ship. However, as it was absolutely requisite for the preservation of the healths of the colonists, that we should get into

\* The labourers, having no fresh stock of their own, lived entirely upon salt provisions, of which they were allowed exactly the same quantity as seamen in his Majesty's navy. Women were allowed the half of a man's allowance—children under 7 years of age one fourth—those between the years of 7 and 12 the allowance of a woman, and above that age the allowance of a man.