

outer bay, considering the state of our anchors and cables, we resolved to enter the inner harbour, called Port Galan or S. Joseph, which promised entire protection, being completely land-locked on all sides, with excellent bottom and convenient depth of water, from four to five fathoms mud. That of the bay is in general coral, with some spots of sand, of very small extent, as we discovered after minute investigation; consequently, very improper for cables such as ours, which had already been so severely treated.

The weather continued cloudy and foul all the remainder of this month, (February,) the sun being visible only for some short moments, and the wind constantly from WSW. to WNW. but not always equally strong.

From our entering the inner harbour until the 12th, the boat was employed in examining the neighbouring shores of the continent, in order to carry on our chart of the strait, when we had an opportunity of surveying to our satisfaction the Port of St. Miguel and Bay of Gaston.

From the earliest discovery of the Strait of Magellan, it has always been an object of research, to find out some communication with the South or Pacific Ocean; which, being free from such dangers and difficulties as those which abound in the western part of the strait, might still permit navigators to enjoy the benefit of the ports and refreshments furnished by its eastern part. M. Froger, upon the informations of M. Marcand, and since him, M. de Bougainville, have much recommended such a channel of communication; stating with great earnestness the information they had collected, which might be assisting in the enquiry. That we might co-operate in this business, we ascended a high mountain in the neighbourhood of Port S. Joseph, from whence we could discern a number of channels intersecting the Tierra del Fuego; and, being provided with all the notices handed down in the accounts of former travellers, we set out with the boat on this voyage of discovery, leaving directions with the officers, who remained behind, to take charge of the frigate: that if the wind should become favourable, they should leave Port S. Joseph, and remove to Port Candelaria or Tuesday Bay. Our want of anchors and cables was a very sufficient reason for not exposing that vessel, in such intricate and unknown passages as those we were about to examine; where either the opposition or the want of wind, joined to great depth of water, and multitudes of dangerous eddies, might bring her into such difficulties as we might never be able to overcome.

We set off, then, in the boat on the 13th February, and coasting along part of Tierra del Fuego, opposite to Port S. Joseph,