

entered the great bay of S. Simon. Our course was in general south, taking, as we passed, observations of bearings and distances, and never omitting, when we found a place where the boat could put in with safety, to ascend some hill or high ground, in order to acquire a more distinct notion of the different islands and channels which compose the archipelago or groupe called by the general name of Tierra del Fuego. Notwithstanding that the excessive depth of water, and the bad quality of the bottom, even close to these high precipitous shores, announced to us early, that it would be impossible to meet with a passage among them practicable for any vessel that did not make use of oars, we still continued all the evening in this labyrinth of islands, almost inaccessible on all parts, and of which it would have been equally difficult, as useless, to make an accurate survey. When night drew on, we turned to the westward, to find a proper place of shelter for our boat, since both the weather and want of light made it impracticable to continue our investigations, and where we might enjoy some repose. A cascade of water not far from us, an abundance of excellent shell-fish, a short stretch of beach, where we might draw up the boat and pitch our tents, all within a spacious bay, not destitute of wood, with the entrance defended by some small islands: these circumstances soon determined us there to fix our abode for the night. We accordingly landed, and put every thing in order; but, at half-past eleven at night, the tide, for which we had not made sufficient allowance in pitching our tent, came to interrupt our repose; so that we were obliged immediately to remove a little higher up, to a place where were the ruins of two huts, placed in that situation by the natives, well acquainted with the course of the tide.

Next morning we continued our researches in the boat; and, as the wind was northerly, we directed our course to the southward. The channels through which we passed, were, in general, narrow, and of vast depth, excepting one, in which there was no more than one and a half fathoms, and was besides wide and open. To this cluster of islands we gave the name of our commander, calling it the Labyrinth of Cordova.

From this station sundry channels presented themselves: in one of which, that appeared the most free from embarrassment, we proceeded for some hours, until we discovered another passage, which terminated in the Southern Ocean; and which, combining all the informations we had been able to collect, seemed to be that through which Marcant had sailed, giving it the name of his own ship, Channel of S. Barbara.

Having thus ascertained the communication outwardly, it, as next of importance to discover that inwardly with the