

two the ship was off Cape Finisterre and Cook was entering in his journal his first longitudes of the voyage by lunar observation. One presumes, on no positive evidence, that they were his, but they may have been Green's, or arrived at with the assistance of Green. If we are to take literally what Green wrote to the Royal Society from Rio de Janeiro, the captain was new to the process: 'I thought it a little odd when I found that no person in the ship could either make an observation of the Moon or Calculate one when made.'<sup>1</sup> He must have familiarised himself with it as rapidly as possible: before reaching Rio he was to record observations, and longitudes reckoned from them, of the moon and the stars Arietis and Aldebaran as well as of the moon and the sun. On 12 September he was at Funchal, where Banks and Solander, guests of the British consul, plunged happily into botanical investigation, and entertainment at a local convent while Cook was busy over maritime matters. Some trifling misunderstanding appears to have occurred here with the authorities, so trifling that Cook does not mention it in his journal; it would not be worth mentioning at all had not a later critic magnified it into a bombardment of the Loo fort by the *Endeavour* and an English frigate, and accused the historian of the voyage of deliberate concealment.<sup>2</sup> In truth Cook had enough trouble without bombarding the Portuguese. In manœuvring the stream anchor Alexander Weir, a master's mate, carried overboard by the buoy-rope and down to the bottom with the anchor, was drowned; he was replaced by a man impressed from a New York sloop. A seaman and a marine who refused their allowance of fresh beef were deemed guilty of mutiny and given a dozen lashes each. This is interesting, both because it seems to show determination on Cook's part from the very beginning to insist on good health through diet—was anybody flogged on the American station for refusing fresh food?—and because, for the only time, he uses corporal punishment as a persuader. He was to think of better ways of making his point. Next day he issued to the whole ship's company twenty pounds of onions a man—for which he had

<sup>1</sup> Green to the Secretary, R.S., 28 November 1768.

<sup>2</sup> George Forster, *A Voyage round the World* (London, 1777), I, x. 'The same authority which blew off M. de Bougainville from the island of Juan Fernandez, could hush to silence the British guns, whilst the Endeavour cannonaded the Portuguese fort at Madeira.'—And footnote: 'The two circumstances here alluded to, are well known facts, though suppressed in the published narratives. M. de Bougainville spent some time at Juan Fernandez, and completely refreshed his crew there, though he wishes to have it understood, that contrary winds prevented his touching at that island. Captain Cook in the Endeavour, battered the Loo-fort at Madeira, in conjunction with an English frigate, thus resenting an affront which had been offered to the British flag.' Bougainville's course took him far west of Juan Fernandez, his first landfall after leaving the Strait of Magellan was Vahitahi, one of the Tuamotus.