

6th January land was reported : at first a small islet, known as Blight's Cap, and afterwards the black, rough-looking coast of Kerguelen Land (or the Island of Desolation). Thick weather prevented approach to the land until the next day, when it cleared sufficiently to run into port, when the anchor was let go in 18 fathoms, in Christmas Harbour.

In this harbour Captain Cook, when in command of the expedition sent out to explore the South Seas, anchored his two vessels, the *Resolution* and *Discovery*, on Christmas Day 1777, and, although not the actual discoverer of the island, his were the first vessels to anchor in any of its numerous harbours.

This inhospitable island and its surrounding group are very little known, although discovered over one hundred years ago by Lieutenant Kerguelen, who had been sent out from France on a voyage of discovery to determine the existence of the great Southern Continent, which the philosophers of that time considered was necessary to maintain the balance of the earth. It was on January 13th, 1772, that it was first seen, amidst fog and rain, when, in consequence of the tempestuous weather, landing was out of the question, and only a very cursory view was obtained of the land, when he was again driven to sea, and, on reaching France, gave such an exaggerated account of his discovery that he was sent out again the following year; and it is from his second visit that our present knowledge of the group is chiefly