

directly. Sketches very busy all afternoon -
 We were all weighed I have gained 18 lbs since
 I came on board. had a bowl of mulled claret to
 celebrate the first sight of land.

Friday 13th rather inclined to be wet this morning
 but turned out fine in the middle island
 in the night the most northern part of the north
 island is a fine mountain rising I should think
 4000 feet above the sea. the straits between the two
 islands appear to be about 10 miles across, with a
 large island called Ruabuki in the middle
 covered with wood. the middle has not so bold
 a coast but the land rises high beyond. Mountains
 covered with snow were visible. The wind as
 foul as it could be all day, beating all day laying
 N. by W and S. E. the middle island is very
 fine, we stood in close, about 3 miles off. it is
 nearly all a dense forest rising rather high.
 the coast is sometimes veined with sandy

bays, at other times with sloping green
 cliffs ~~and~~ rising boldly out of the water
 and presenting the appearance of a well
 wooded park. beyond the dense forest which
 I mentioned before, are seen high mountains
 of every form. this is the description of the
 first fifteen miles of the middle island, it
 altogether presented the grandest piece of
 scenery I ever saw. the air came soft and
 warm off the land bringing with it a most
 delightful perfume of the herbage.
 At four o'clock wind freshened, reefed the
 brizen top-sail, soon after reefed the fore-top
 and then the main-top-sail. at five o'clock
 saw a full rigged ship on our weather bow
 bearing about N. E. of us. We had a most
 splendid sunset, the red light rising behind the
 mountains like flames of fire -