

contract. As a matter of fact I paid for the charter about twice as much as the vessel was worth.

I packed all my stores in drapery cases, putting in each case flour, bacon, tea, sugar, and other necessaries in the required proportions. The zinc linings of the cases were carefully soldered and well secured with iron hoops. The stores were thus thoroughly secured from water and rats.

We sailed from Nelson on 5th August, the party consisting of twelve men. As indicating how small the vessel was, I may say that the cabin was 8 ft. by 6 ft.; there were six bunks in it which were more like bee cells than berths. If I wanted to turn on my pillow I had to pull my pillow out first. The first day out we struck heavy weather off Separation Point, and we lay the first night in Tonga.

On the 10th we were out in the Straits and, meeting with heavy weather, were compelled to run back and shelter at the Croixelles, where we spent two days.

On the 13th we sailed again and got off Cape Farewell, but again met with very heavy weather and we ran back to D'Urville Island and sheltered in Greville Harbour on the western side of the Island. This harbour has a little boulder bank similar to the one at Nelson, and is an excellent place to take shelter.

After lying there for a week, which we spent fishing and pig-hunting, we