

After two sealing expeditions on shore at Philip Island Boulton, "being completely tired out with continued hardships heightened by the disagreeable proceedings of the rascals on board, hunger stricken and disconsolate", decided to try to live alone on the island. He was landed with "6 lb. of biscuit dust, and 4 lb. of pork, some melon seeds and cabbage seeds and an old dog, of no service only as a companion." Soon he had to make his way to the mutton-bird rookery on the island. This was a journey of four days, with bare blistered feet as his moccasins quickly wore out. At one stage he was only able to obtain water by making a tube of albatross quills and sucking through them from a little hollow in a narrow rock crevice. On arrival he built a fire to cook a bird, fell asleep before it was cooked and woke to "find the whole island in a blaze;" his feet were a little scorched but his life was saved by the fact that he lay to the windward of the fire—the rookery was burnt out. He ate roasted eggs for several days and then had to hunt penguins for food "fit only for persons who are absolutely starving." After three months alone and starving he was rescued by his former shipmates and eventually made his way back to Hobart.

In June 1824 he returned to Sydney still hankering for Otaheite, but worked with a boat's crew for the pilot at the penal settlement at Port Macquarie for seven months spending his leisure time in solitary rambles amongst the natives, and fishing. Then, luckily for New Zealand: "... I was induced to go to New Zealand, to join a party employed Sealing by Messrs. Cooper and Levy, of Sydney. I agreed to serve them in this employ, for 18 months, on a certain stipulated share of what skins were procured, and to receive in advance 5£ in cash, and 5£ value in clothes or any other property." 24 men, 4 boat's crews embarked on board a Sydney Brig on the 14th of March 1825. "The contrast between these men and the sealers in Bass' Straits was remarkable for with few exceptions they were an orderly set of fellows. We were on good terms with one another, and as nothing but goodwill was manifested towards me, I could well pass over those defects of manner common to all people uneducated as they were."

On April 5 they anchored at George's Harbour where all the boats and provisions for six months were landed. Boulton's boat took provisions for six weeks, three muskets, a dog and their clothes and went about a hundred miles north. They stopped at Milford Haven.

... a wild romantic looking place, abounding in high mountains, and intermediate deep vallies—the woods are abundantly supplied with game; as woodhens, green birds [kakapo], *emus*\* etc—these birds are of large size, they lay their eggs in holes in the ground and in hollow trees and as they cannot fly, they are easily overtaken with dogs.