



Westward Bound in the Schooner Yankee

Irving Johnson

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Originally designed and built by the Dutch government as a deep-sea pilot schooner, the Yankee had seen thirty years in the rough waters of the North Sea when Captain and Mrs. Johnson purchased her in 1933. The year following they fitted her out for a voyage which evokes memories of ancient chronicles of exploration in the tradition of Cook and Hakluyt.

To trace the course of the Yankee from Gloucester harbor around the world is to re-draft in no small degree a map of strange and remote parts of the globe. Among her ports of call was Floreana in the Galapagos, then the home of the tragic Baroness and her companions. Then 3000 miles of open sea brought the Yankee to tiny Pitcairn, famous from the saga of the Bounty. And in succession Tahiti, Cook Islands, the Fiji and Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides, North Borneo, and the China Sea. Followed the far East, Siam, Singapore, the East Indies and South Africa, around the Cape of Good Hope, and finally, after eighteen months across the Atlantic to reach again her home port in Gloucester.

On this voyage Captain Johnson and his interesting ship's company made many inland explorations among strange lands and native peoples. New islands were charted and places visited hitherto unknown to white men's experiences. Their discovery of one of the highest waterfalls in the world, which they promptly named "Yankee Falls," is an unusual tale among modern seafaring chronicles. Their day by day story of the Yankee's voyage and the uncommon experiences of her people is written in the good deep sea tradition--a simple terse style and great economy of expression. All in all the reader will find here a grand tale of the sea.

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