

change jobs or leave the district is closely similar to that of Russians. On the central issue of the book—the impact of the railway—the point which emerges clearly is that the traditional native pursuits of reindeer husbandry and hunting are strongly based, are likely to continue and even grow.

The editor, who was also one of the principal contributors to the volume, has been the pioneer over the last ten years in studies of this kind, and he deserves our thanks for this new, interesting and carefully prepared work.

### A COMPELLING TALE

[Review by Sydney Miller\* of Captain Charles H. Barnard's *Marooned*, edited by Bertha S. Dodge, Middletown, Connecticut, Wesleyan University Press, 1979, xiv, 263 p, illus. Hardcover US\$ 18.70.]

Charles Barnard, an experienced American sealing captain, had made several voyages to the Falkland Islands during the early 19th century. In September 1812 he anchored his vessel, *Nanina*, in Hooker's Harbour, New Island and continued sealing in the shallow, *Young Nanina*. An American vessel, *Hope*, arrived the following January when Barnard learnt of the outbreak of war between the US and Britain. While sealing south-east of West Falkland he noticed smoke on an island then known as Eagle Island (now Speedwell); there he found the crew and passengers of the British ship, *Isabella*, wrecked on passage from Australia to England. Instead of being grateful to be rescued, on hearing of the hostilities, the party seized *Nanina* while Barnard was away hunting for food. At a time when the Falklands had been temporarily abandoned by the British Navy, he was left marooned on New Island with three companions and no food or equipment to survive the winter months. The story of their survival until being rescued five months later is recounted in great detail by Barnard in *Marooned*, first printed in 1829 now republished 150 years later. Their shelter built from beach stones, driftwood and seal skins still stands today as part of a cow byre.

Mrs Dodge has been indefatigable in her research into sources that have confirmed the accuracy of Barnard's narrative, despite the 15 year period between his rescue in November 1814 and the first publication of *Marooned*. She suggests that he may have kept a rough log written with a primitive kind of ink on parchment made from dried skins of seal pups. Either Barnard had an excellent memory or these parchment skins survived his further travels after his rescue, for two more years elapsed before he finally reached home.

It is a compelling and dramatic tale of human treachery and survival: a part of Falkland Islands history that can stir no pride in British hearts.

## IN BRIEF

### ANTARCTIC CONSERVATION CONVENTION

In May 1980 representatives of 15 nations (the Antarctic Treaty nations plus East and West Germany) met at a conference in Canberra to discuss the conservation of the Southern Ocean's living resources in the face of a growing fishing industry in the area. The conference was able to agree on a convention to prevent over-fishing by regulating commercial exploitation of marine life; it also elected to establish an international commission of experts to study the food chain of the Southern Ocean and to recommend measures to protect species. About 35 million square

\* Editor, *Falkland Islands Journal*, Lois Cottage, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, South Atlantic.