

of her encircling the globe. His own was the next turn, and at the close of the year 1790 he was prepared for a "voyage of discovery to the North Pacific Ocean, and round the world." In January, 1791, he sailed from the Thames in command of the "Discovery," sloop of war, manned by a hundred officers and men, and armed with ten four-pounders and ten swivels, and the "Chatham," armed tender (Lieutenant Broughton), with a crew forty-five in all, and four three-pounders and six swivels. There were twenty-two marines in this force; for the half unravell'd tangle about Nootka Sound, and the uncertainty as to a pleasant understanding with the Spaniards, rendered some precautions necessary—not to speak of the dangers from treacherous Indians and cannibals abhorred.

Not to put a girdle round the earth in forty minutes, but diligently to survey and examine the least, if at all, known parts of the North Pacific, in four years, was the task undertaken by this distinguished navigator. And well was it performed. On his return to his native land, in 1795, such had been his care of his men that only one had died of disease, and four were lost by accidents, to which there was an endless and often almost desperate exposure, during four years and eight months and twenty-nine days. We love the seaman's particularity: it is the sure sign of truth. And all this, and much more, is recorded in the three now venerable quartos, published in 1798, edited by John Vancouver, in consequence of the recent death of his brother, who had corrected the press to page 288 of the third volume, and arranged the sequel, without being permitted by Providence to see the end of his exhaustive toils and exertions. An interesting folio of charts and views accompany the text; and the copy we have referred to is not made less attractive by having the autograph "Jos. BANKS," another of the famed companions of Cook, inscribed on the fly-leaf.

As we have now ascertained that no navigable communication exists between the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans, (whatever may soon be engineered by the short route of Panama,) Captain Vancouver was for a season chiefly engaged on his mission to Nootka Sound, and about Otaheite and the adjacent isles, making elaborate boat soundings, laying down charts, and, now and then, encountering the hostilities of the natives. Bows and arrows, and spears sixteen feet long pointed with iron, were not to be despised in the hands of these ferocious hordes, even by the wielders of fire-arms; and, if it came to close combat, every warrior had an iron dagger in a sheath, suspended from his neck, and looked as terrible as he could in his war clothes of strong hides, not unlike our modern cuirassiers, and painted up to the pitch of the appalling! And then the ladies among some of the tribes, with a slit below and parallel to the under lip, and capable of being ornamented with a wooden platter, fully three inches in circumference, and producing anything but a graceful appearance, were hardly less imposing. We remember a party of these Indians exhibited in Bond Street some thirty years ago. The male was stout and active: the female, an acknowledged belle and beauty, hideous, with two

mouths when she took the platter out, and more frightful when, with it in, she offered her lips for a salute after the English fashion. She was also vain of six or eight cicatrices upon her bronzed person, above the knees, which were testimonials of so many gashes made in honour of conquests she had achieved among the heroes of her tribe.

Having disposed of the matters referred to, Captain Vancouver addressed himself to the discovery and accurate survey of the coast between California and the Russian settlements, but principally between the forty-seventh and fifty-second or fifty-third degrees of north latitude, where lies the island which now bears his name, though originally conjoined to that of Quadra. About this island, between it and the main land, New Albion, and on the main land itself, his greatest pains were bestowed; and from Queen Charlotte's Sound at the northern extremity, to the Straits of Juan de Fuca at the south, he opened and determined a new region of geographical information, little dreaming of the Pactolus river, Fraser, which flowed into the middle of his course. At this time the aforesaid straits are spoken of and mapped as "the supposed;" for there is no reason to believe that ever De Fuca passed them and found an inland sea, any more than Mr. Robert Gray, of the Boston ship "Washington," rumoured to have accomplished the same exploit, but who, being met with and consulted by Vancouver in April, 1792, stated that he had entered the supposed straits, and found a passage five leagues wide, and had been told by the natives that the opening extended a considerable distance northward, which was all he knew of an inland sea.

On the last day of the same month, our gallant expedition made the latitude $48^{\circ} 19'$, penetrated these unknown straits, and proceeded to the exploration of the interior waters, islands, and continent, down Admiralty Inlet sixty or eighty miles southwards, and up the Gulf of Georgia and Queen Charlotte's Sound again into the broad Pacific, having thus circumnavigated Vancouver Island. Our countrymen, of course, took formal possession of all they saw; but as future treaties regulated these matters, we need not dwell on them here. As a portion of New Albion has become part of the United States, and Possession Sound is no longer an English possession, it is the simple fact that certain names have lapsed into desuetude. Even Whidbey's Island, between the disputed Juan and the continent, is coloured with the American green, and washed by Vancouver's Straits; while Puget's Sound, and other nominals from officers who traced them in the boats below latitude 48° , are all incorporated with the States.

As a diversion from these details, we may throw a glance at the natives, whom the keen competition in trading for furs brought into contact with Russians, Spaniards, Americans, and British visitors. One of the most inexplicable things that struck the voyagers, was the erection of poles, some of them a hundred feet high, and surmounted by horns, but the use of which could not be made out. Several of the tribes were very different from the Indians of Nootka Sound. All

along t
the nar
given t
wintry
one of
some th
filth th
trary, t
fleas th
escape
a suffici
curious
very sin
ago, to
commis
ninth p
Americ
assailan
informa
darkeni
pass, an
every p
through
able was
fly from
old, see
the wat
was inc
clothes
dangere
gates t
overcon
which v
was ser
last cen

While
traffic,
played
misery,
every d
some w
pended
deserti
only at
to vary
place o
ment,
pasty f
usual,
ally, t
the ve
scarcel
put a
it out
disgus
flesh;
men l
at har
and th
meat,
steaks
But
nor ex
stores
nomen
which