

scientific point of view one of the most important. He fixed many positions on the American coast, surveyed Behring Strait, the Sandwich Islands, the Lau-chu Islands, &c. The same commander afterwards, in 1835-6, again went to the Pacific, in the *Sulphur*, but being invalided, he resigned his command to Captain, afterwards *Sir Edward Belcher*. The *Sulphur* did excellent service in reconciling many points in doubt, in surveying many other places of great importance, and adding a great fund of information to North Pacific hydrography. While the *Sulphur* was thus employed, the French frigate *La Venus*, under Captain *A. Du Petit Thouars*, in 1837-8, collected a great amount of valuable information on the whale fishery, besides surveying and determining the positions of many places.

Omitting many minor authorities, the noble work by *Von Siebold* on Japan, published by the Dutch Government, 1823-30, deserves every admiration, and is worthy of a nation. Another truly national undertaking was the *United States Exploring Expedition*, organized under Commodore *Charles Wilkes*, 1838. The works of this important surveying squadron need not to be further alluded to.

Later than this we may notice the voyage of the *Herald*, under Captain (now Admiral) *Kellett*, R.N., and his three voyages to the Arctic Sea, as chronicled by *Dr. Berthold Seemann*, 1845-51. These and many other works are duly acknowledged as our authorities.

Since the period when the foregoing voyages were undertaken, the great changes before alluded to have come over the countries bordering on the North Pacific. Commencing with Central America, we have made use of the work of Captain *De Rosencot* of the *L'Obliquo*, on the province of Veraguas, in 1854, and of the observations of *M. De Lapelin*, of the French corvette *La Brillante*, 1852.

On the cession by treaty of the Californian territory to the United States, that Government immediately took measures (1848) to acquire a better knowledge of its coasts, and the ultimate result was the perfect directory drawn up by Assistant *Geo. Davidson*, U.S.N., from the surveys and observations of the U.S. Coast Survey in 1863, chiefly under Commanders *W. A. Bartlett*, *McArthur*, and *Jas. Alden*, U.S.N., 1848--1858. These directions,