

burial was long sacred to the voyageurs, and was known as "Cameron's grave."

### THE PACIFIC FUR TRADERS.

Early in the present century the North-west Fur Company had pushed its trade, as we have mentioned, beyond the Rocky Mountains. Shortly after, in consequence of the celebrated overland journey of the American captains, Lewis and Clarke (1804-6), John Jacob Astor, of New York, undertook to establish a fur company at the mouth of the Columbia River. It is quite surprising to note the number of Celts who were selected in both these companies to carry out the purposes of the traders beyond the mountains. One of the most prominent of Astor's Company was Alexander McKay, figuring so greatly in Washington Irving's "Astoria" and other works of the period. It is said he had accompanied Sir Alexander Mackenzie on both his voyages. The ship "Tonquin," which afterwards met so sad a fate, sailed from New York on Sept. 6th, 1810, under the command of a harsh and blustering American officer, Captain Thorn. From Ross Cox's account we learn that—"Four partners of the Astor enterprise, namely, Messrs. Alexander McKay, Duncan McDougall, David and Robert Stuart, embarked in her, with eight clerks, &c., all destined for the company's establishment at Columbia." Capt. Thorn played the tyrant, "but," continues Cox, "Messrs. McKay, McDougall, and the Stuarts had too much Highland blood in their veins to submit patiently to the haughty and uncivil treatment of the captain." Irving describes,