

Admiralty Inlet is probably one of the most extensive inland arms of the sea in the world ; from the entrance of the Straits of Fuca, at Cape Classet, it may be said to be one vast sheltered harbour. Admiralty Inlet, however, properly speaking, including Puget Sound, which is at its southern extremity is about 90 miles in length: there is anchorage all over it at a depth of water seldom exceeding 30 fathoms; there are several small harbours on most of which the Americans have commenced small villages, or as they call them cities; the largest settlement is Olympia, consisting of log-houses, and containing some 300 inhabitants; it is situated at the extremity of Puget Sound; it is not well situated for trade, a large mud flat running out in front of it, which is left high and dry at low water; no vessel of large draught of water can approach nearer than a distance of at least half a mile. There is but little prairie land in the neighbourhood of Olympia; the whole probably will not exceed 300 acres.

Next in importance to Olympia comes Steilacoom. This is the locale where the military are stationed, to whom the guardianship of the northern portion of Washington territory is intrusted; a few straggling log huts have sprung up around those which have been appropriated as barracks; the soil is poor and shallow, the substratum is a cold clay overlying a mass of shingle several feet in thickness. At the back of Steilacoom is a tract of open prairie or grass land running with little interruption all the way back to the Cowlitz River; its length may be about 75 miles, with a breadth varying from 1 to 3 miles; the whole northern portion of it is very poor soil, and indeed is quite useless except for pastoral purposes. Here the Hudson Bay Company had their principal cattle and sheep establishment: their factory is at Nisqually, some 8 miles distant from Steilacoom. In 1849 they had here about 7000 head of cattle and sheep with some 600 horses; the cattle had principally been driven overland from California, the original sheep had been imported from England, and the horses collected from the various savage tribes of the north-west; they still keep up their establishment, which is superintended by Doctor Tolmie as well as circumstances will allow; the Hudson Bay Company have, however, lost a great quantity of stock lately from want of sufficient hands to look after them. Brother Jonathan also takes a stray shot at them occasionally with his rifle, and has appropriated not a few in that and other ways. The wool from the sheep is annually exported to England. The Hudson Bay Company have a few acres of land under cultivation, but it produces little or nothing. The Americans are gradually closing round the Hudson Bay Company, and will no doubt eventually succeed in ousting them from this corner of their territory.

Besides Steilacoom there are two or three little American