

proves unfavorable for that part of the work, you will be able to employ yourself in the river above the middle sands, or about Astoria.

9th. A tide staff will be kept at Astoria; but you will, while employed in sounding, note particularly the variation of the depth of water along-side, and the time; your soundings will be reduced accordingly.

10th. You will apprise me of your proceedings from time to time, and immediately if any accident should befall you.

Mr. Eld and his party are daily expected from Gray's harbor; you will render him all the aid in your power. Mr. Colvocoresses is ordered to report to you for duty. If you have duty for him, detain him; if not, let him join me at Vancouver.

Wishing you success in carrying out these instructions, I am, with respect, yours, &c.,

CHARLES WILKES,

*Commanding Exploring Expedition.*

Acting Master SAML. R. KNOX,

*Commanding Flying Fish.*

In obedience to these orders, acting Master Knox proceeded to fill up the soundings. Having found that he has given an erroneous impression (probably from memory) relative to the entrance and harbor, I herewith give copies of his reports to me; which, being written at the time and during the progress of his work, give a different impression, and, no doubt, a correct one.

*Mr. Knox to Captain Wilkes.*

SCHOONER FLYING FISH,

*Fort George, August 28, 1841.*

SIR: Mr. Eld, with his party, arrived yesterday, and I came up to this place with them in the afternoon. He will leave for Vancouver to-day, if possible.

I have been obliged, while awaiting his party, to work in the vicinity of Cape Disappointment, and have sounded and laid in the shores from the cape as far up the bay as a line between the Sand island and the small river emptying into the bay. The weather, excepting four days, has been rough, so that I could accomplish very little. I anchored once in the passage outside the cape, but was obliged, by the setting of the sea, to leave it very soon afterwards. Last Tuesday night, while at anchor on the northern side of the Sand island reef, the tide running very strong, the two boats swamped; and the Polly broke adrift, and probably went to sea. I did not leave to communicate the loss to you, as the weather proved so fine up to yesterday that I thought it best to get on as fast as possible with the remaining boat. I have taken the Pearl, and have required some oars from Mr. Birnie. I shall be able to use her inside.

Dr. Palmer has advised that I should leave William Fenno on shore, (sick,) and he has given me a man in his place. It is calm now, and the tide flood. I shall leave as soon as possible, and sound through the Clatsop channel, which I hope to finish in a day or two.