

the first time since our departure, fine pleasant weather and a fair wind. We passed between Formosa and Betol Tobago, when I discovered another island, lying ten leagues further north than the latter. As this island is not marked on any chart, and being on a very unfrequented track, I presume it has not been seen by any navigator before me; therefore I named it after my partner and friend, Mr. Cleveland. I continued my voyage with great apprehension through this unexplored sea, with a tolerable proportion of favourable winds, and on the 13th saw the island of *Lieukieu*.

This is a large populous island, chief of a groupe lying between it and Formosa, and subject to China. Its inhabitants are highly civilized, and, like the Chinese, carry their origin back to the remotest antiquity. It is not governed as a province of China, but by their own natural sovereigns, who, on account of their prompt submission to the Tartar emperors of China, were left in the full enjoyment of their power and privileges, nothing being required of them but a trifling annual tribute, by way of acknowledgment of their dependence. It is reported that the arts and sciences are here as far advanced as in China; and, had I been successful on my voyage, it was my intention to visit this island on my return to China. On the 18th I saw the island of *Todos Santos*: this is a small uninhabited island, about leagues distant from the southern coast of Japan. We had now got entirely out of the regions influenced by the trade winds and monsoons, and, in consequence, our voyage towards the American continent was continued with great rapidity,

though not with much comfort, as we had very stormy weather, and a constant succession of hard westerly gales. On the 1st of May we arrived off Columbia river, without having experienced any material damage except springing our foremast, which was also much decayed; and it was my intention to have entered this river to procure a new one, and some other spars that we were in want of, and which are very abundant there; but, during eight days that I plied off the river, the weather was so tempestuous that I never dared to attempt crossing the bar, on which the sea broke with horrible fury.

Columbia river was discovered by captain Grey, of Boston, commander of the *Columbia*, in 17—. It is a noble river, and the only considerable one on the western side of our continent; the latitude of its mouth is  $46^{\circ} 20'$  north. It is supposed to be the "Oregon or river of the west" of Carver, and that its sources are near those of our *Missouri*. The rapid current of this great river, meeting the swell caused by the westerly winds, that have the whole sweep of the ocean from Tartary to the American continent, forms a bar at its mouth, which is always difficult, and sometimes dangerous to pass.

On the 9th of May, I proceeded down the coast in search of a port of less difficult entrance. Nothing can exceed the wild beauties of this coast. Its mountains, rising in magnificent amphitheatres, covered with evergreen forests, with here and there a verdant plain near the shore, and a snow-capt mountain in the back ground, offer a view grand and sublime in the highest degree. Here nature

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