

spaired of reaching the entrance of the river. The Commodore, therefore, dispatched two boats, under the command of Lieutenant King, to make such observations as might enable us to form some tolerable idea of the nature of the river.

We anchored, about ten o'clock, in nine fathoms water. The Commodore, observing the strength of the tide to be so great, that the boats could not make head against it, made a signal for them to return before they had proceeded half way to the entrance of the river. The chief knowledge obtained by this time's work, was, that all the low land, which we imagined to be an island, was one continued tract from the great river to the foot of the mountains, terminating at the south entrance of this eastern branch, which the Commodore denominated the *river Turnagain*. The low land begins again on the north side of this river, and extends from the foot of the mountains, to the banks of the great river; forming, before the river Turnagain, a large bay, having from twelve to five fathoms water.

After entering the bay, the flood set very strong into the river Turnagain, and the ebb came out still stronger, the water falling twenty feet upon a perpendicular. From these circumstances, it plainly appeared, that a passage was not to be expected by this side river, any more than by the main branch. But, as the water at ebb, though much fresher, retained a considerable degree of saltness,