

an accomplished navigator, furnished with all the means of making scientific investigations, was pursuing the examinations, which were the great purpose of his expedition, Captain Gray, in a trading vessel, and in the prosecution of commercial objects alone, discovered the only two important openings, the Columbia river and Bulfinch's harbor, on the northwest coast, from the 40th to the 48th parallel of latitude, where Vancouver, after the most critical survey, had discovered none.

It is indeed an extraordinary circumstance that the existence of all the great inlets in the coast, to which Great Britain now lays claim on the ground of discovery, was strenuously denied by the navigators in her public service, until those inlets were discovered and made known by others. We have seen what Vancouver said in relation to the coast between the 40th and 48th parallels of latitude. On the 23d of March, 1778, Captain Cook was in latitude 48° 15' inspecting the coast. The promontory of Classet, (or Cape Flattery as he denominated it,) the southern cape at the entrance of the strait of Juan de Fuca, was in full view, and but a few miles distant. Hear what he says in relation to the strait:

"It is in this very latitude where we now were that geographers have placed the pretended strait of Juan de Fuca. But we saw nothing like it; nor is there the least probability that any such thing ever existed."—Cook's Third Voyage, volume 2, page 363.

Now, however, Great Britain claims the whole strait and the adjoining country by Vancouver's discovery, though he himself admits (as we shall see) that the Spaniards had surveyed and mapped a portion of it before he arrived on the northwest coast.

In the letter of the British plenipotentiary, Mr. Pakenham, of the 29th July last, the following passage will be found at page 87, documents accompanying the President's message:

"In 1792, Vancouver, who had been sent from England to witness the fulfilment of the above mentioned engagement, (the restitution of bulwarks, &c., at Nootka, which, as has already been seen, were not to be found) and to effect a survey of the northwest coast, departing from Nootka sound entered the straits of Fuca; and after an accurate survey of the coast and inlets on both sides, discovered a passage northwards into the Pacific, by which he returned to Nootka, having thus circumnavigated the island which now bears his name. And here we have, as far as relates to Vancouver's island, as complete a case of discovery, exploration, and settlement as can well be presented, giving to Great Britain, in any arrangement that may be made with regard to the territory in dispute, the strongest possible claim to the exclusive possession of the island."

To repel this assumption, the grounds of which the distinguished British plenipotentiary appears not to have sufficiently investigated, Mr. Buchanan briefly referred to previous examinations by the Spaniards. I now proceed to show by Vancouver himself that the assumption is entirely unsustained by the facts.

In the first place, let me correct an error into which Mr. Pakenham has fallen at the outset, in saying that Vancouver, "departing from Nootka sound," surveyed the straits of Fuca, circumnavigated the island which bears his name, and then returned to Nootka. Sir, Vancouver had never seen Nootka sound when he surveyed the straits of Fuca. He entered the straits on the 29th of April, the evening of the day he met Capt. Grey, and proceeded immediately to survey them, as may be seen by his journal, vol. 2, pages 40 and 52. He arrived at Nootka, for the first time, on the 28th of August, four months afterwards—page 334 same volume. This correction is only important as repelling the inference which might have been drawn from the fact, if it had been as stated by Mr. Pakenham, that Vancouver had been previously established at Noot-

ka, and had departed from it as from a regular station on a voyage of exploration to the straits of Fuca.

But there are more important errors to be corrected.

While Vancouver was surveying the strait of Fuca, and the extensive inland waters connected with it Galliano and Valdes, two Spanish officers, sent out from Nootka sound, were engaged in the same service. The two parties met on the 23d of June, about the middle of the strait, near Point Grey, above Frazer's river, and proceeded together northerly, uniting their labors, and surveying its shores to a point near the extremity of the island of Quadra and Vancouver, between the 50th and the 51st degrees of north latitude, where they separated. And here I desire to call the special attention of the Senate to the Journal of Vancouver, who states that Señor Galliano, who spoke a little English, informed him "that they had arrived at Nootka on the 11th of April, from whence they had sailed on the 5th of this month, (June,)" "in order to complete the examination of this inlet, which had, in the preceding year, been partly surveyed by some Spanish officers, whose chart they produced." Observe, sir, the inlet (i. e. the strait of Fuca,) about latitude 50°, partly surveyed and named a year before Vancouver came on the coast. Vancouver then continues, (page 210, vol. 2.)

"I cannot avoid acknowledging that, on this occasion, I experienced no small degree of mortification in finding the external shores of the gulf had been visited, and already examined a few miles beyond where my researches during the excursion had extended, making the land I had been in doubt about an island, continuing nearly in the same direction about four leagues further than had been seen by us and by the Spaniards named Valdes, [Fevada]."

By turning back to page 204, vol. 2, it will appear that Vancouver's examination terminated at 50° 6' north latitude; so that the Spaniards, before his arrival, by his own acknowledgment, had examined the strait of Fuca to a point north of that parallel; and by turning to page 249, vol. 2, it will be seen that, on parting with Señor Galliano, the latter furnished him with "a copy of his survey and other particulars relative to the inlet of the sea, which contained also that part of the neighboring coast extending northwestward from the straits of De Fuca, beyond Nootka, to the latitude of 50° 3', longitude 233° 48'."

What, then, becomes of this complete "case of discovery, exploration, and settlement," in respect to Quadra and Vancouver's island, and the strait of Fuca? It is proved by Vancouver himself that the Spaniards had partially surveyed and mapped the shores of the strait as high as 50° a year before he arrived on the coast. And if we turn to his journal, vol. 2, page 339, it will be seen that Galliano and Valdes arrived at Nootka on the 1st of September, three days after him, by a "route through Queen Charlotte's sound" round the northern point of the island, "to the southward of that which we had navigated," and of course following its shores more closely than he. "The strongest possible claim to the exclusive possession of the island," to use Mr. Pakenham's language, is not, therefore, as he asserts, in Great Britain; but, as shown by Vancouver himself, it was in Spain then, and is in us now.

But, sir, I have a word to say in relation to the whole subject of Vancouver's exploration.

It would seem that the Spaniards, in the autumn of 1793, had become distrustful of Vancouver's objects in the survey of the northwest coast. At the bay of St. Francisco, although he had everywhere before been treated with a civility by the Spaniards, for which his journal abounds in expressions of gratitude, he was subjected to restrictions which he