

JOURNEY TO THE PACIFIC CONTINUED 501

great pleasure, but my Men seemed disappointed; they had been accustomed to the boundless horizon of the great Lakes of Canada, and their high rolling waves; from the Ocean they expected a more boundless view, a something beyond the power of their senses which they could not describe; and my informing them, that directly opposite to us, at the distance of five thousand miles was the Empire of Japan added nothing to their Ideas, but a Map would. The waves being too high for us to double the Point we went close to the River bank where there is a narrow isthmus, of one hundred yards, and carried across it;¹ from thence near two miles to the fur trading Post of M^r J J Astor of the City of New York; which was four low Log Huts, the far famed Fort Astoria of the United States; the place was in charge of Mess^{rs} McDougall and Stuart who had been Clerks of the North West Company; and by whom we were politely received.² They had been here but a few months, and arriving after a long voyage round Cape Horn, in the rainy season without sufficient shelter from Tents, had suffered

¹ Franchère's description of the arrival of Thompson and his men throws a touch of colour on the scene: "Toward midday we saw a large canoe with a flag displayed at her stern, rounding the point which we called Tongue Point. The flag she bore was the British, and her crew was composed of eight Canadian boatmen or voyageurs. A well-dressed man, who appeared to be the commander, was the first to leap ashore" (Franchère, *Narrative*, p. 120). [T. C. E.]

² Fort Astoria was on the south bank of the river, in latitude 46° 11' N., longitude 123° 52' W., according to present-day observations. The building of it had begun on April 12, 1811, when the partners of the Pacific Fur Company had begun to land their stores from the *Tonguin*, and to prepare a place for a trading post. The site, however, had been chosen a few days before. The post was in command of Duncan McDougall and David Stuart; for biographical sketches of these men, see Coues, *New Light*, p. 759 and p. 783 respectively. For comparative accounts of Thompson's visit, see Franchère and Alexander Ross, both of whom were present; Washington Irving, who drew from the original journals kept at the fort; and Ross Cox, who arrived later. Astoria passed into the hands of the North-West Company by purchase in October, 1813. [T. C. E.]