

As for Squire Chapman, it appeared uncertain whether he knew that Abner was gone. He appeared to consider his place just as empty before he went as it was afterwards. What he himself had set up, he alone could pull down. That

axiom was unquestioned in his own mind. He took it for granted that the graven image, which he himself had set up and pulled down, was broken to pieces in the fall, and did not trouble himself as to what became of the fragments.

## THE SHIP COLUMBIA AND THE DISCOVERY OF OREGON.

By Edward G. Porter.

### I. THE FIRST VOYAGE.



EW ships, if any, in our merchant marine, since the organization of the Republic, have acquired such distinction as the *Columbia*.

By two noteworthy achievements, a hundred years ago, she attracted the attention of the commercial world and rendered a service to the United States unparalleled in our history. She was the first American vessel to carry the stars and stripes around the globe; and, by her discovery of "the great river of the West," to which her name was given, she furnished us with the title to our possession of that magnificent domain, which to-day is represented by the flourishing young states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

The famous ship was well known and much talked about at the time, but her records have mostly disappeared, and there is very little knowledge at present concerning her.

The committee for the centennial observance, at Astoria, of the *Columbia's* exploit having applied to the writer for information upon the subject, in which they are naturally so much interested, he gladly responds by giving an outline of the facts, gathered mainly from private sources, and illustrated by original drawings made at the time on board the ship, and hitherto not known to the public.

The publication, in 1784, of Captain Cook's journal of his third voyage awakened a widespread interest in the possibility of an important trade on the north-west coast. In Boston there were a few gentlemen who took up the matter seriously, and determined to embark in the enterprise on their own account. The leading spirit among them was Joseph Barrell, a merchant of distinction, whose financial ability, cultivated tastes, and wide acquaintance with affairs gave him a position of acknowledged influence in business and social circles.

Associated with him in close companionship was Charles Bulfinch, a recent graduate of Harvard, who had just returned from pursuing special studies in Europe. His father, Dr. Thomas Bulfinch, lived on Bowdoin Square, and often entertained at his house the friends who were inclined to favor the new project. They read together Cook's report of an abundant supply of valuable furs offered by the natives in exchange for beads, knives, and other trifles. These sea-otter skins, he said, were sold by the Russians to the Chinese at from £16 to £20 each. "Here is a rich harvest," said Mr. Barrell, "to be reaped by those who go in first."

Accordingly, in the year 1787, they made all the necessary arrangements for fitting out an expedition. The other partners were Samuel Brown, a prosperous merchant; John Derby, a shipmaster

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