

trace the Far-off-Metal River to its mouth, to explore the situation of the copper mines, if any, of which indistinct accounts had been given; and, in short, to attend to any localities which might be productive of an extended commerce, or geographical knowledge.

His first attempt was made in the close of the year 1769, when, after proceeding about two hundred miles, his Indian guides deserted him; and it was with great difficulty he regained the settlement at Fort Prince Wales. Not daunted by this unsuccessful expedition, he set out again on the 23d of February 1770, accompanied by three northern and two southern Indians. Having travelled, without any material occurrence, for upwards of a month, the difficulties of proceeding farther, till the season became more advanced, were so great that they were induced to pitch their winter tent, in which they lodged till the 27th of April, when they again resumed their journey. They reached the river Cathawchagay in latitude 53 deg. 4 min. north,