

JOURNAL

May 17th.—I went on-board H. M. S. Sparrowhawk, in Esquimalt Harbour, at 4 p.m., a few minutes after the Governor, accompanied by Mr. Lowndes, acting as Private Secretary, had arrived. At a quarter past 4, the anchor was weighed, and we steamed out of the Harbour under easy steam; the weather being fine but with a fresh breeze from the S. W., which gradually increased to a gale, accompanied with much thunder and lightning and very heavy rain, which continued all night.

At 6 p.m., we anchored for the night at Cadboro Bay, perfectly sheltered from all quarters but the S. E. The Governor's health, which had been indifferent for some days past, seemed to improve from the moment he got on board ship.

May 18th.—Started at 7 a.m., and reached the anchorage in Nanaimo Harbour at 4 p.m. I there went ashore, in-company with Mr. Lowndes, and called on the Resident Magistrate, Captain Spalding, who went off to wait upon the Governor, and remained on board to dinner. The Governor was at table, feeling much better and stronger.

May 19th.—Went alongside the coal shoot at 7 a.m., and finished coaling at 2 p.m., having taken in 90 tons, making, with the 60 tons on board when we arrived, 150 tons in all, of which 50 tons were stowed on deck. I went ashore this afternoon and arranged some matters of Lands and Works business with Captain Spalding, as to the Collection of the Road Tax in his District, and the repairs of the Nanaimo Bridge and the District Roads.

May 20th.—We left Nanaimo at 7 a.m., and reached Plumper Bay, above Seymour Narrows, about 90 miles from Nanaimo, at 7 p.m.

May 21st.—Started at 5 a.m., against a strong head wind, and anchored off Fort Rupert at 5 p.m., where Captain Mist, Dr. Comrie, Mr. Lowndes, and myself went on shore and visited the Hudson Bay Company's Fort.

May 22nd.—Under weigh at 5 a.m.; passed the wreck of the U. S. Steamer Suwanee, in Shadwell passage. At 9 a.m., crossed Queen Charlotte's Sound in very fine weather and smooth sea, and reached Point McLaughlin at 6 p.m., where we found the Hudson Bay Company's Steamer Otter at anchor, she having arrived the same day from Skidegat, on her way to Victoria. Mr. Moss has established a trading post at this point, near the site of the old Hudson Bay Company's Fort, relinquished 20 years ago, when Fort Rupert was established. The Bella-Bella Indian village is situated on the opposite side of the Inlet, and about a mile distant from Moss'. It is chiefly built on a small rock-island, but is deserted by most of the Indians, who are now settled around Moss' post, which consists of a substantial and comfortable looking dwelling-house, store-house, trading-shop, &c, with some cultivated garden land around them. Mr. Moss came on board and informed us that Captain Pender of the Beaver was at Kynumpt Harbour, about seven miles further on; we therefore, having handed to Mr. Moss hastily written letters to be forwarded to Victoria by the Otter, proceeded to Kynumpt, and anchored near the Beaver at 7 p.m. Captain Pender came on board to call on the Governor, and remained to dinner.

May 23rd (Sunday).—All day at anchor. In the forenoon Mr. Lowndes and myself went on board the Beaver with Captain Mist. Captain Pender told me that he had been informed, on what he considered good authority, that the schooner Nanaimo Packet, which had been engaged in trading liquor to Indians, was now again in the Naas River employed in the old business.

May 24th.—Started from Kynumpt at 5 a.m., and anchored in Lowe Harbour, about half a mile from the water-fall, in a beautiful and perfectly sheltered little bay, at 7.30 p.m. Soon after we anchored it came on to blow in very heavy squalls, and throughout the night and until past noon next day we had very stormy weather with heavy rains.

May 25th.—Remained all day at anchor, the weather being very stormy until after noon, when it cleared up a little and I went ashore with Captain Mist and Mr. Lowndes. We landed near the waterfall and tried to make our way back to the Big Lake, of which the river that forms the waterfall is the outlet. But as we could not find any trail, we were unable to make any progress through the dense undergrowth along the river bank.

May 26th.—We started at 5 a.m., the morning being fine, and anchored off Metlakatlah, about two miles from Mr. Duncan's house, at about 2 p.m. We were soon surrounded by canoes full of Indians anxious to trade. Having no pilot on board, and as none of the officers of the present commission, with the exception of the Surgeon, had been here before, it was not considered prudent to take the ship into the inner harbour. From the distance at which we lay this Mission Station has quite a town-like appearance. Mr. Duncan's residence and store-house, a large octagon building near it used for School and Church purposes, the gaol—a bastioned block-house—over which the ensign was flying, and the town-hall and court-house—a large framed building at the water side, all newly whitewashed, produced altogether an imposing effect. Mr. Duncan came off soon after the ship was anchored, and had an interview with the Governor, who arranged to go ashore the next day.