

INTRODUCTION.

The first edition of the Directory of the Pacific Coast of the United States was undertaken while I had command of the United States Coast Survey brig *R. H. Fountleroy* during the years 1851-58. It was written wholly outside of official hours and official duties, and part of it was first published in one of the daily journals of San Francisco.

My earlier duties on this coast in the determination of geographical positions at primary standard stations, in the secondary stations of the Geographical Reconnaissance of the Coast from Mexico to British Columbia, 1850-54, and in examining sites for light houses, had somewhat familiarized me with the general features of nearly every mile of the seaboard. The accumulation of observations on the currents, winds, fogs, dangers, landmarks, etc., warned me that I could not trust them to memory or to desultory notes. Therefore I felt it a duty that this knowledge should be put in proper shape and collated with the information and experience of others, for the benefit of the rapidly growing commerce of the Pacific coast.

When I had written the matter of the first edition of the Directory, or Coast Pilot, and offered it to Superintendent Rache, he at first hesitated about receiving it because he had known nothing of it officially, but finally accepted it upon my assuming the responsibility of the accuracy of the work.

It received such practical indorsement from the navigators of the Pacific Coast that a second edition was called for in 1862* by Superintendent Rache, and a third edition in 1869 by Superintendent Peirce.

In these editions, such details and new material as had been gathered, and such experience as I had acquired, were added to the previous edition with as little change by rewriting as practicable.

In 1880, Superintendent Patterson asked me for a fourth edition, and I undertook the work in addition to my regular duties. However, I soon found that the results of the systematic and extended surveys of my fellow workers on land and at sea, the accumulation of a multitude of details where only general characteristics had before been available, the greatly increased number of the aids to navigation, the development of the data for predicting the tides in every bay and harbor, the many valuable facts from the daily life of the thorough and practical navigators on our coast, the numerous views of headlands, points, islands, rocks, and landfalls, the special examinations of important dangers and dangerous localities, and my further observations, experience, and study through the intervening years, could not be simply interpolated in the last edition.

I had an unexpected task before me; nevertheless, I have entirely rewritten this fourth edition, which has grown to three or four times the size of the third.

I have endeavored to give some information about the seasons, fogs, winds, and currents of the coast through the body of the work, but more particularly for the vicinity of the Gulf of the Farallones. Very much remains to be done in this matter.

When the vast labyrinth of the interior waters of Washington is alive with traffic, much fuller descriptions will be needed for that region.

The views which have been introduced into this edition have been drawn from original sketches. About a dozen are from originals made in 1851-53. In 1867, I began making views

* This edition was reprinted bodily, without proper credit, in the "Sailing Directions for the West Coast of North America, between Panama and Queen Charlotte Islands, by James F. Murray, F. R. G. S., second edition. London: James Murray & Son, Minories and Tower Hill. 1868."