

the same year Captain Barclay in the "Imperial Eagle," a trading vessel re-discovered the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

In 1788-92 Captains Grey, Kendrick and Ingraham visited with three ships the northwest coast in command of the first United States trading and exploring expedition.

The Spanish Governor, Martínez, in 1790 sent two British vessels in Nootka Sound. One of them was the ship "Crown" which carried prisoners to Mexico. This gave rise to the Nootka Convention in 1791. To avenge this insult to the British Crown the Government assembled at Spithead, under Admiral Earl Howe, a fleet consisting of 48 sail, 10 of battle ships and frigates, with a total armament of 4,814 guns. This illustration of sea power doubtless hastened the release of the British ships and prisoners, notwithstanding the Spanish claim that this was due to their generosity. That is as it may be, but after 1792 the Spaniards did not again attempt to retain possession of any portion of the west coast of this Province.

In 1792 Captain George Vancouver, who gave his name to the island, in command of H.M.S. "Chatham" and H.M.S. "Discovery," visited the west coast and sailed round Vancouver Island. There was not at that time a lighthouse, beacon or any aid to navigation existing, and this fact taken together with the absence of all knowledge of any dangers to the passage of ships in the harbours or inlets along the coast, or of the intricate, narrow and tortuous channels between the islands, and the currents, tides and tide rips existing therein, proves that this voyage of Captain Vancouver, without serious mishap, must be regarded as a remarkable achievement.

Captain Vancouver continued his explorations northward in 1793 giving names to capes, islands (his vessel went on the rocks (Fig. 3) off Queen Charlotte Island, but was floated off by the crew without damage) and inlets and finally after another visit to the Sandwich Islands he left Nootka Sound in October, 1794, for England.

Alexander MacKenzie, crossing the continent, reached the coast about July, 1790, at a point in Fitz Hugh Sound near by where Captain Vancouver's officers had been surveying.

In 1811 Astoria was established at the mouth of the Columbia River, and three years afterwards the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company was founded at Fort Vancouver on the north bank of that river, about one hundred miles inland. From this point the company, enjoying a monopoly, extended its activities into the northern country, distributing supplies by pack trains to the many trading posts in the interior and on the coast established by the company's officers who came from the east across the continent, gathering furs obtained by trade with the Indians and returning with these to Fort Vancouver for shipment in the company's sailing vessels to London. It was the