

voyage, was called Hancock's harbour. The Indian Chief, Cleishinah, informed Captain Gray, that a Spanish vessel was then there, and that no British vessel had been seen since those captured. Captain Kendrick, arrived at Clayoquot, on the 29th of August, having bought of the natives, their landed estates laying South 240 miles on the coast, paying them in muskets, iron, copper and clothing.

In March, 1792, Captain Gray left this place, and on the 11th of May, while sailing snug to the coast, in latitude $46^{\circ} 19' N.$ he discovered and entered one of the largest and most beautiful rivers in North America. He named it after his ship, Columbia. Vancouver, who was at this time at Nootka, receiving from Captain Gray, information of this river, sent his first lieutenant to survey its mouth. In 1803, the United States ordered an expedition under the command of Captains Merrewether Lewis and William Clark, to explore, from its source to the ocean, this majestic river. They took formal possession of it, and built at its mouth, Fort Clatsop.

We ought not to omit mentioning the possession and occupancy of the shores of the Columbia, by John Jacob Astor, a public spirited and enterprising merchant of the city of New York. He contemplated a permanent occupation of the country, and sent out, in 1810, a company of one hundred and twenty men, well supplied with provisions and seeds of every kind. The following account of it, is derived from a state paper.

"This little colony consisted of an hundred and twenty men, when it arrived in the Columbia; and after ascertaining its soundings, they removed, some miles above Fort Clatsop, and built the town of Astoria, where a portion of them cultivated the soil, whilst the others engaged in the fur trade with the natives. The soil was found to be rich, and well adapted to the culture of all the useful vegetables found in any part of the United States; such