

the Olympian range in Washington Territory beyond. A feature of interest to the stranger, is the entrance to Victoria harbor, and a little beyond it that of Esquimalt. It was in this neighborhood, on the spot now known as Macaulay's plains, that on May-day, 1792, Captain George Vancouver touched these shores. His description as follows, may be read with interest: "On landing on the westward of the supposed island, and ascending its eminence which was nearly a perpendicular cliff, our attention was immediately called to a landscape, almost as enchantingly beautiful as the most elegantly finished pleasure grounds in Europe. The summit of this island presented a nearly horizontal surface, interspersed with some inequalities of ground, which produced a beautiful variety on an extensive lawn covered with luxuriant grass, and diversified with an abundance of flowers. To the northwestward was a coppice of pine trees and shrubs of various sorts, that seemed as if it had been planted for the sole purpose of protecting from the N. W. winds this delightful meadow, over which were promiscuously scattered a few clumps of trees, that would have puzzled the most ingenious designer of pleasure grounds to have arranged more agreeably. Whilst we stopped to contemplate these several beauties of nature in a prospect no less pleasing than unexpected, we gathered some gooseberries and roses in a state of considerable forwardness." †

A striking object in this wild scene is the Race Rocks lighthouse, that "friendly beacon" to the storm-tossed mariner, and sign to the weary emigrant of near approach to his promised land. Nor must we omit to mention that extraordinary and beautiful spectacle the Mirage which is often to be seen here in the summer time, in bright calm weather.

On looking toward the south, the view presents

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† Vancouver's Voyage of Discovery, vol. 1, ch. 4, bk. 3.