

Past "Governors Island" armed height
In Boston's harbor they anchored tight.
The first American that ever swirled
The stars and stripes around the world.

Her long cruise, bereft of gain,
The ship was fitted out again
Gray in the Columbia in 1792
Again bade New England's coast adieu,
Giving "the course" his mind intent
On the far northwest of the continent.
Little thought he as the placid sea
Laved the ship's sides timidly,
That this voyage should give to fame,
The "Columbias" banded with his name.
The fairest land with cities yet to be,
With iron roads from sea to sea,
Binding rich commonwealths between
Surpassing the most patriotic dream.
To the Republic, a peerless heritage
The grandest empire of any age.
Over all the stars and stripes should wave,
'Till liberty lay in a forgotten grave.

Condemned the English traders were
By the Spanish captain of the man-o'-war,
Their papers giving right to seize
Spanish property on the seas;
He held their crews as prisoners,
Until from Madrid he should hear.
Quick then Britain sent "Vancouver"
To dissipate a threatened war,
In the "Discovery" Vancouver came,