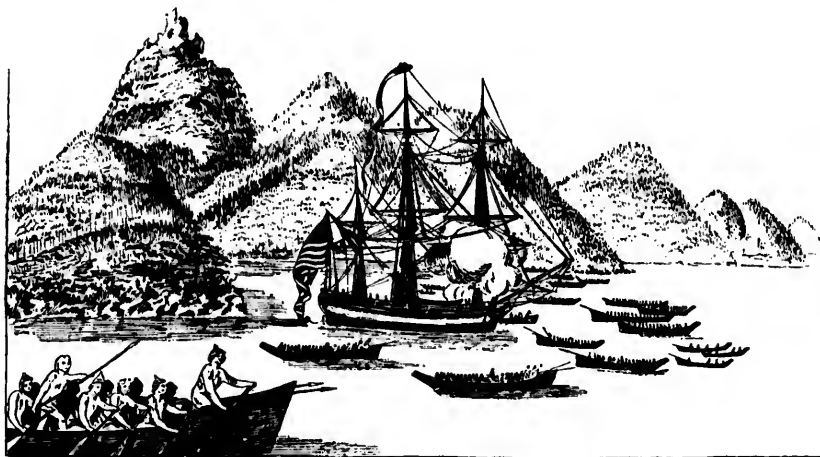


difficulty. The jolly-boat was sent out to sound the channel, but finding it still shallow, Gray decided to return, and, on the 15th, he dropped down with the tide, going ashore with his clerk "to take a short view of the country."

On the 16th, he anchored off the village of Chenook, whose population turned out in great numbers. The next day the ship

Cape Disappointment and Deception Bay. But none of these can be properly said to have *discovered* the river. Certainly, Meares, whose claim England maintained so long, showed, by the very names he gave to the cape and the "bay," that he was after all deceived about it. And he gives no suggestion of the river on his map. D'Aguilar was



AFTER AN OLD DRAWING BY DAVIDSON.

In the Straits of Juan de Fuca

CAPTAIN GRAY OBLIGED TO FIRE UPON THE NATIVES WHO DISREGARDED HIS ORDERS TO KEEP OFF.

was painted and all hands were busily at work. On the 19th, they landed near the mouth of the river and formally named it, after the ship, the COLUMBIA, raising the American flag and planting coins under a large pine tree, thus taking possession in the name of the United States. The conspicuous headland was named Cape Hancock and the low sandspit opposite, Point Adams.

The writer is well aware that the word discovery may be taken in different senses. When it is claimed that Captain Gray *discovered* this river, the meaning is that he was the first white man to cross its bar and sail up its broad expanse and give it a name. Undoubtedly, Carver — to whom the word Oregon is traced — may have heard of the river in 1707 from the Indians in the Rocky Mountains; and Heceta, in 1775, was near enough to its mouth to believe in its existence; and Meares, in 1788, named

credited with finding a great river as far back as 1603, but, according to his latitude, it was not this river; and even, if it was, there is no evidence that he entered it.

The honor of discovery must practically rest with Gray. His was the first ship to cleave its waters; his, the first chart ever made of its shores; his, the first landing ever effected there by a civilized man; and the name he gave it has been universally accepted. The flag which he there threw to the breeze was the first ensign of any nation that ever waved over those unexplored banks. And the ceremony of occupation, under such circumstances, was something more than a holiday pastime. It was a serious act, performed in sober earnest, and reported to the world as soon as possible.

And when we remember that as a result of this came the Lewis and Clarke Expedition of 1804-5, and the settle-