

habitants such things as will remain as traces and testimonies of your having been there; but if you find the countries so discovered are uninhabited, you are to take possession of them for his majesty, by setting up proper marks and inscriptions, as first discoverers and possessors."

The name of New Albion, given in these instructions to a part of the coast, is well calculated to excite a smile, when we recollect that it has no other warrant than the predatory voyage of Sir Francis Drake. We have said these instructions render it certain that it was no part of the object of Cook's voyage to acquire territory and effect settlements; and we cannot resist the conviction that the name was selected, and the directions to acquire territory by negotiation, etc., were given solely to preclude this very inference, and not that they should be obeyed, for that is manifestly incompatible with the positive instructions "to lose no time in exploring inlets or rivers, or upon any other account." The prohibition to lose any time, on any account, south of  $65^{\circ}$ , and the direction "carefully to search for and explore rivers and inlets" north of that parallel, seem to justify the inference that the instructions to take possession, etc., could only apply to territory situated to the north of  $65^{\circ}$ , where alone they were permitted to spend sufficient time, and directed to make the surveys necessary for that purpose. But this inference becomes absolutely certain, when to the instructions we add the practical commentary of Cook's conduct under them. To this we now proceed.

On the 7th of March, 1778, in latitude  $44^{\circ} 10'$  north, Captain Cook first saw the "long looked-for coast of New Albion." All their efforts to find a harbor or effect a landing were baffled by tempestuous weather and contrary winds until the 29th, when they found an inlet and safe harbor in latitude  $49^{\circ} 33'$ , now called Nootka Sound. This point is the same visited and examined by Juan Perez, in 1774, and which he called Port San Lorenzo. Of the natives, Cook says: "They showed great readiness to part with anything they had, and took from us whatever we offered in exchange, but were more desirous of iron than of any other of our articles of commerce, appearing to be perfectly acquainted with the use of that metal. Subsequently, he ascribes "their great dexterity in works of wood to the assistance they receive from iron tools."

Whence did these savages, cannibals, as they are represented, derive their knowledge of the use of iron, and of the mode of converting it into tools? If there be any difficulty in answering this question, there can be none in asserting they did not derive it from the British, for on their arrival they found the iron and tools in common use. Cook, foreseeing that he was exposed to this embarrassing interrogatory, seeks to avoid the only reasonable solution, in referring to the previous visit of the Spaniards, by saying, "Iron being familiar to these people, it was very natural for us to speculate about the mode of its being conveyed to them." In the course of this speculation, he indulges in a variety of conjectures not very probable—as that the iron came from the north. If so, it must have been from the Russians, who, at that period, had not penetrated so far south; or from the English settlements on Hudson's Bay, which may be pronounced impossible. He does not hesitate to assert that the Spaniards (the account of whose visit to this coast in 1774 and 1775 he admits had reached England before he sailed) did not introduce the iron at Nootka Sound. He adds, with great simplicity, that it cannot easily be determined "whether these things be introduced by way of Hudson's Bay and Canada, from the Indians who deal with our traders, and so successively across from one tribe to another, or whether they be brought from the northwestern parts of Mexico in the same manner." He rejects the only probable supposition, that the Spaniards, who unquestionably were there in 1774, left this iron in exchange for skins, and resorts to an idle fancy of its having been transmitted from the English or Spaniards, through the intervention of numerous and hostile tribes of Indians. This iron may have been left by the Spaniards for the same purposes that Cook was directed to leave that, or similar substances—"to remain as traces and evidences of their having been there." Several articles were found, of which the "materials certainly were European"—such as brass ornaments, of which it is said, if not from Canada, they "must have been introduced at Nootka from the quarter of Mexico, from whence no doubt the two silver spoons met with here were originally derived." Here is proof, which