

but he said he should make a prize of Douglas, if he found him.

At one place a large fleet of canoes came off in great parade and offered their sea-otter skins for one chisel each. Our men readily bought the lot—two hundred in number—worth from six to eight thousand dollars! This was the best bargain they ever made, as they could seldom get a good skin for less than six or ten chisels. An average price was one skin for a blanket; four for a pistol; and six for a musket. Gray then stood southward and went into Hope Bay, and later into a place called by the natives *Cowaset*, where there was every appearance of a good harbor. He then visited the islands of the north and gave names to Cape Ingraham, Pintard Sound, Hatch's Island, Derby Sound, Barrall's Inlet, and Washington's Islands (now known as Queen Charlotte's) whose mountain tops were covered with snow, even in summer. It is a pity that most of the names given by our explorers in that region have been changed, so that it is not easy to identify all the places mentioned by them.

Returning to Nootka they found the Spaniards claiming sovereignty over all that region, detaining the English vessels and sending the *Argonaut* with her officers and crew as prisoners, to San Blas. The schooner *Northwest America*, which Meares had built, was seized and sent on a cruise under the command of Coolidge, and her crew and stores were put on the *Columbia* to be taken to China. Serious complications between England and Spain grew out of these high-handed proceed-

ings, resulting in the "Nootka Convention," as it was called—the famous treaty of October, 1790, by which war was averted and a new basis of agreement established between the two powers.

Another important change now took place. Captain Kendrick concluded to put the ship's property on board the sloop, and go on a cruise in her himself, with a crew of twenty men, while Gray should take the *Columbia*, reinforced by the crew of the prize-schooner, to the Sandwich Islands, and get provisions for the voyage to China, and there dispose of the skins. Ingraham and Haswell decided to go with Gray, while Cordis remained with Kendrick. And so the two vessels parted company.

The *Columbia* left Clayoquot July 30, 1789, and spent three weeks at the Hawaiian Islands, laying in a store of fruits, yams, potatoes, and hogs. They were kindly received there, and a young chief, Attoo (sometimes called the crown-prince), was consigned to Captain Gray's care for the journey to Boston, under the promise that he should have an early opportunity to return. They had a good run to China and reached Whampoa Roads on the 16th of November. Their agents at Canton were the newly-established Boston firm of Shaw & Randall, who also attended to consular duties. It was an unfavorable season for trade, and their thousand sea-otter skins had to be sold at a sacrifice. The ship was repaired at great expense and made ready for a cargo of teas.

The following bill of lading should have a place here:



FROM AN ORIGINAL MINATURE.

Attoo

"Ship
and com
the good
Master
Gray, an
and by
—to say
do, 144
ered—
to his as
Ship to
Dated in
(signe

Ken
with h
and, h
ton h
Bay"
"outen
an op
hundr
the slo
The
Febru

but a
her c
Be
lumb
of G
and
her
1790
50,0