

continent, remains to be determined by future navigators." But he adds "the fur trade is inexhaustible."

Meares, a mercantile voyager, in 1786, was the first European who had wintered on the coast north of San Francisco, making it an event of historic importance. He was a believer in De Fonte's and De Fuca's voyages as authentic.

The next discoverer was, as was proper, an American, sailing under ship's papers given by the old Confederation in 1787. Capt. Gray, of Boston, on his second voyage, discovered the Columbia river, in 1792, and by right of discovery, then the law of nations, secured that outlet on the coast to the United States. He discovered Bulfinch's harbor, the only one for seven hundred miles, discovered Queen Charlotte's to be an island, and revealed De Fuca's straits to Vancouver, and for the first time carried the United States flag around the world. La Perouse had discovered the archipelago of Queen Charlotte's in 1786.

Notwithstanding the discoveries of Capts. Cook and Gray, the results of the fabulous voyages of De Fonte, De Fuca and others were retained on maps till within eighty years, and they were not overthrown, and the veritable continent defined in its western limits until the memorable voyage of Vancouver was completed in 1794.

Vancouver met with Capt. Gray on the coast to the great surprise of the former, and profited by the communications made to him. He surveyed and defined Vancouver's island and its archipelago, and visited in all nine thousand miles of coast.

It was only after the results of his discoveries were published that it could be said that we had a tolerably correct map of the north-west coast. And yet absurd as it may seem, as late as 1794, Vancouver was in the hope, according to his instructions, of finding a river by