

The Governor expressed himself as highly satisfied with the Otter skins that had been received by them from the Company in fulfilment of the contract of sale entered into, likewise with the wheat and other agricultural produce that had been delivered under the same contract, for which payment had been duly made by his Bills on St. Petersburg transmitted: so that I am in hopes our present dealings with our Russian neighbours from which the country derive important advantages, are but an earnest of future and more extended business operations, and as I hope to see Govr. Etoline again on my way to Siberia, and Baron Wrangell and the Board of Directors of the Russian American Company as I pass through St. Petersburg it is more than probable that further extended business transactions may be determined upon previous to my return to England.

The R. A. Co.
have not yet
abandoned
Bodega.

32. The Russian American Company have not yet abandoned their establishment of Bodega in California being unable to effect a sale of their buildings and stock; that stock consists principally of sheep, cattle, horses, Agricultural implements, &c all of which has for some time past been offered for sale at the round sum of 30,000 dollars. Govr. Etoline however foreseeing the difficulty of obtaining payment should a sale be effected to any of the people in California said he should feel disposed to accept a much lower price from the Hudson's Bay Company and I have no doubt that the whole might be purchased at from 15000 to 20,000 dollars. The Russian American Company admit that they have no title to the soil beyond that which they have acquired by occupation; this the Mexican Government does not recognize but they cannot dislodge them, the Russian force there having usually been 150 men, although now that they are about to withdraw it is reduced to 50. Bodega is not well situated for trade nor is the country well adapted for Agriculture; and as any title the Russian American Company could give us would be of no avail unless backed by a force of 80 to 100 men I do not see that any good object can be gained by making the purchase on any terms. Under these circumstances I made him no offer nor did I encourage the hope of our becoming purchasers.

Departure
from Sitka.

33. After passing 4 days at Sitka where we experienced the utmost kindness & hospitality we took our departure on the 31st September, retracing our steps along the coast and again calling at Stikine, Fort Simpson, & Fort McLaughlin. In coming through Johnston's Straits we were suddenly enveloped in a dense fog in a part of the Straits not exceeding two miles in breadth where there was a tide way of 12 to 14 knots an hour of which we were the sport for 13 hours: during this time the vessel was quite unmanageable as we could not see the land, lost the best bower Anchor, disabled the small bower and were unable from the strength of the current to take soundings with two deep sea leadlines fastened together in places where at the slack of the tide we afterwards ascertained the depth of water was from 25 to 30 fathoms. In the course of those 13 hours the current hustled the vessel up and down the Straits with incredible speed but fortunately there was an offset from the land which kept her in deep water until the fog dispersed, when the steam was got up, and enabled us to escape from this extraordinary tideway without any other loss than the Anchor in question, as the injury done to the other has since been repaired.

Intended to
have called at
Fort Langley.

34. It was my intention to have gone into Fraser's River with a view of visiting Fort Langley but being uncertain whether the ship by which I was to proceed to the Sandwich Islands might not be waiting for me and being unwilling to detain her I proceeded direct to Puget Sound intending to visit Fort Langley on my return to Sitka next Spring. Fort Langley is situated in Lat: 49° 6', Long: 122° 47', and is intended to collect the trade of the numerous tribes inhabiting the mainland coast and East Coast of Vancouver's Island from Lat: 48° to Point Mudge in Lat: 50°, and from Long: 121° 50' to Long: 124°. The complement of people at this place is