

done, and should be;' so said the autocrat." This of the man who had just put himself absolutely into the hands of his partners! Again: "Astor committed his venture to the deep and sat down to muse upon the profits." This of the man who had bound himself to advance four hundred thousand dollars free of interest, to bear all losses himself, and to divide any profits which might accrue! Of course Mr. Astor expected his venture to be a profitable one; but he seems to have been of the same class of merchants as those who founded the British empire in India. The grandeur of the undertaking appears to have moved him far more than the prospective profits, and there is every reason to believe that he was fully in earnest when he wrote that he should have preferred to have had his property fairly captured rather than given away, as he considered it was. That Mr. Astor's undertaking was looked at as an important one in a national point of view may be seen from a letter of Jefferson's, and no one was better able to appreciate its significance than the consummator of the Louisiana purchase. Jefferson says: "I considered as a great public acquisition the commencement of a settlement on that point of the western coast of America, and looked forward with gratification to the time when its descendants should have spread themselves through the whole length of that coast," etc.

Washington Irving receives even worse treatment at Mr. Bancroft's hands. He accuses him again and again of inventing facts and coloring his narrative unfavorably to McDougal; but, worse than that, he speaks of "the current of unqualified sycophancy, trickery, sentimentality, and maudlin praise which runs through [Irving's] 'Astoria.'" He states that "There are whole pages in 'Astoria' abstracted almost literally from Frauchère. Pretending to draw all his information from private sources, the author makes no allusion to the source to which he is most indebted, not even mentioning Frauchère's name once in his whole work." Further: "Up to this time the imputation that he had received money from Mr. Astor for writing 'Astoria' I believed to be utterly false, and unworthy of consideration. But in closely comparing with original evidence his statements concerning the New York fur merchant and his associates of the Northwest Company, I find them so at variance with truth and fairness that I am otherwise at a loss to account for his unusual warp of judgment."

It seems impossible, judging from these statements, that Mr. Bancroft can ever have read Irving's "Astoria" even so far as to the end of the introduction, or he would have found the following: "I have therefore availed myself occasionally of collateral lights supplied by the published journals of other travelers who have visited the scenes described—such as

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