

dians acknowledge that they had sold large tracts of lands to Captain Kendrick, and afterwards say, that they had never sold lands to any other person. The lands were taken possession of with much formality, the American flag hoisted, a bottle sunk in the ground, &c., and many chiefs present at the ceremony.

From a variety of circumstances, the deeds for the above lands never reached this place. Mr. Howell, who had them in his possession, after the death of Captain Kendrick, writes from Macao in 1796, to Mr. Barrell, in reply to a letter of Mr. Barrell, in which he requests him to send forward the deeds, says, that he then had the deeds, that they are recorded there by a notary public and triplicates made out, and that the originals shall be sent forward. As late as May, 1798, Mr. Howell writes to Mr. Barrell from Manilla, that "he is in daily expectation of his papers, and among them your deeds of the lands on the north-west coast; you shall certainly have them transmitted." The officer of the ship Columbia who first landed, and by orders of his commander took possession at Columbia river is now here, and recollects all the circumstances of hoisting the American flag, and planting some New England pine-tree shillings under a tree, naming the river after the ship, and the two capes, one the Hancock, the other Adams, &c. It is believed that the deeds of this land were registered in the consulate at Canton, as Colonel Perkins thinks he saw them there in the hands of Mr. Randall, vice consul. Should the government deem it proper to make further inquiry into this business, much evidence can be found here to substantiate the above statement, and the owners are taking means to procure from China or from Bengal, where Howell is supposed to have died, the original deed or authenticated copies of them; they are desirous of giving all aid to the government. I would, with due diffidence, submit to your consideration, whether the best way to obtain well authenticated evidence, would not be to require Judge Davis of this district, who from his disposition to make researches into such things, is better qualified than perhaps any person here to make such inquiries as government may think requisite to be made; I do not propose this to avoid trouble, feeling myself bound to render any service in my power. I shall gratefully receive your commands, being with very high respect, your obedient servant,

B. JOY.

Hon. JAMES MONROE, Esq.

Secretary of State.

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WASHINGTON, December 1, 1817.

DEAR SIR: I shall deem it a particular favor if you will have the goodness to forward to me as soon as you conveniently can, copies of the papers relating to the purchase of lands from the Indians on the north-west coast of America, and of the journal of the vessel, which you were good enough to lend me for my perusal when I had last the pleasure of seeing you at Boston.

I am with great respect, dear sir, your very obedient servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

CHARLES BULFINCH, Esq., Boston.