

APPENDIX G.

STATEMENT BY MR. BULFINCH,

Concerning the voyage of the Lady Washington and the Columbia.

In the year 1787, Joseph Barrell, Esq., a distinguished merchant of Boston, projected a voyage of commerce and discovery to the northwest coast of America, and associated with him Samuel Brown, Charles Bulfinch, John Derby, Crowel Hatch, and John M. Pintard. For the purposes of this voyage, the ship *Columbia*, under the command of John Kendrick, and the sloop *Washington*, commanded by Robert Gray, were equipped and provided with suitable cargoes for traffic with the natives of the northwest coast. The expedition was considered so remarkable, (it being the first attempt, from the United States, to circumnavigate the globe,) that medals were struck, both in silver and copper, bearing on one side the representation of the two vessels, and on the other the names of the owners. Very particular sailing-orders were agreed to and signed by Mr. Barrell in behalf of the owners, and by the captains, officers, and seamen of both vessels, in which the course of the voyage and the traffic with the natives were pointed out. The vessels left Boston in the autumn of 1787. After long delay, they reached Nootka Sound, and proceeded to traffic for furs; and when a sufficient quantity had been collected, Captain Kendrick put Captain Gray in command of the *Columbia*, to proceed with her cargo for Canton, while he remained on the coast with the sloop *Washington* to make further collections of furs. Captain Gray proceeded to Canton, made sale of his furs, and purchased a cargo of teas, with which he returned to Boston. The result of the voyage disappointed the expectations of its projectors; and the proceeds of the teas not being sufficient to cover the cost of outfit, and the unforeseen expenses in Canton and elsewhere, Messrs. Derby & Pintard would not pursue the enterprise further, but sold their shares in the vessels to Messrs. Barrell and Brown. The remaining owners determined to send Captain Gray (in command of the *Columbia*) to the coast, for the furs which it was supposed Captain Kendrick had been collecting. Captain Gray proceeded to the northwest coast, and on the 7th May, 1792, came in sight of land, in latitude $46^{\circ} 58'$, and anchored in what he named Bulfinch's harbor. On the 11th, he entered a large river, and, on the 14th, sailed up the same about fourteen miles, and remained in this river until the morning of the 21st May. This river he named COLUMBIA, (after the name of his ship;) the north side of the entrance he called *Cape Hancock*, and the south side *Point Adams*.

Captain Gray and his officers landed on the shores of this river, had frequent intercourse with the natives, and took possession, in the name of the United States. After Captain Gray had made another voyage to Canton with the cargo of furs collected by Captain Kendrick, he returned to Boston, when it was determined by the owners to prosecute the enterprise no further with the ship *Columbia*, but to leave Captain Kendrick with the sloop *Washington* to attend to their interests on the northwest coast.

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