

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLUMBIA 505

at this length was three feet in diameter without a branch ; close behind Astoria I measured a very tall Pine forty two feet girth : the Raspberry stalk measured eighteen to twenty one feet in height, and the size of a man's arm ; the Raspberries were rather larger than common, of a sweet insipid taste, without the least acid.

On the east side of Cape Disappointment is a Bay, part of which is called Gray's Bay ;¹ in which is situated the village of the Chinooks, whose Chief was the noted Komkomle,² a friend of the white men, and who by influence and example kept order as much as possible ; he was a strong well made man, his hair short of a dark brown and was naked except a short kilt around his waist to the middle of the thigh ; his wife was a handsome Woman, rosy cheeks, and large hazel

¹ The bay immediately at the mouth of the river protected by Cape Disappointment is Baker's Bay, so named in honour of Captain Baker of the trading brig *Jenny* found lying there by Lieutenant Broughton when he arrived in October, 1792. About ten miles further east on the north shore was the Chinook village of Chief Comcomly, and about ten miles beyond that are the bay and river named in honour of Captain Robert Gray, who anchored there in May, 1792. Thompson's reference is to the entire north side of the river opposite Astoria. [T. C. E.]

² No visitor at the mouth of the Columbia failed to mention Comcomly. Lewis and Clark found him upon the beach when they arrived in November, 1805 ; and so did the crew of the *Tonquin* in April, 1811. All the authorities tell interesting tales as to his authority and conduct. Washington Irving dubbed him "the one-eyed potentate." On March 5, 1814, Comcomly attended a dinner given in his honour on board the *Pedlar*, "clothed with a red coat, New Brunswick Regiment 104th, a Chinese hat, white shirt, cravat, trousers, cotton stockings, and a pair of fine shoes, and two guns were fired on the occasion" (Coues, *New Light*, p. 850). Commander Charles Wilkes found his grave behind Astoria in 1841, and has left us a picture of it (*United States Exploring Expedition*, vol. iv. p. 321). Comcomly's daughters intermarried with the fur-traders ; and one of his grandsons, Ranald MacDonald, born at Fort George in February, 1824, was educated in Upper Canada, served as bank clerk in Ontario, ran away to sea from New York, was cast away on the shores of Japan, and, as one of the first foreigners allowed upon that island, assisted in opening the way for communication between Japan and the rest of the world, but ended his days and was buried near Kettle Falls on the Columbia. [T. C. E.]