

the enemy. It was a narrow escape. Captain Gray had but three men left aboard, and, if the natives had captured the boat's crew, as they came so near doing, they could easily have made a prize of the sloop. Murderers' Harbor was the appropriate name given to the place. Haswell thought it must be "the entrance of the river of the West," though it was by no means, he said, "a safe place

for any but a very small vessel to enter." This was probably near Tillamook Bay. Some of the maps of that time had vague suggestions of a supposed great river, whose mouth they placed almost anywhere between the Straits of Fuca and California. When Gray was actually near the river which he afterward discovered, he had so good a breeze that he "passed a considerable length of coast" without standing in — otherwise the centennial of Oregon might have been celebrated in 1888 instead of 1892. How slight a cause may affect the whole history of a nation!

Farther north, they saw "exceeding high mountains, covered with snow"

sheltered anchorage, which they named Hancock's Harbor, for the governor under whose patronage they had sailed. This was in Clayoquot Sound, where, on their next voyage, they spent a winter.

At last, on the 16th of August, 1788, the sloop reached its destined haven in Nootka Sound. Two English snows from Macao, under Portuguese colors, were lying there — the *Felice* and the *Iphigenia* — commanded by Captains Meares and Douglas, who came out in a boat and offered their assistance to the little stranger. The acquaintance proved to be friendly, although there were evidences, later on, of a disguised jealousy between them.

Three days later, the English launched a small schooner, which they named *Northwest America* — the first vessel ever built on the coast. It was a gala day, fittingly celebrated by salutes and festivities, in which the Americans cordially joined. The *Washington* was now hauled up on the ways for graving, and preparations began to be made for collecting furs.

One day, just a week after their arrival, they saw a sail in the offing, which, by their glasses, they soon recognized as the long-lost *Columbia*. Great was their eagerness to know what had befallen her. As she drew nearer, it became evident



Medal struck to commemorate the Departure of the "Columbia" and the "Washington."

(August 21), evidently Mount Olympus. A few days later, the painstaking mate writes, "I am of opinion that the Straits of Juan de Fuca exist, though Captain Cook positively asserts it does not." Passing up the west shore of the island, now bearing Vancouver's name, they found a good,

that her crew were suffering from scurvy, for her topsails were reefed and her top-gallant masts were down on deck, although it was pleasant weather. Captain Gray immediately took the long-boat and went out to meet her, and, shortly before sunset, she anchored within forty yards of

the sick  
scurvy,  
advance  
After  
counte  
much  
Juan  
politely  
Blas  
everyth  
ernor  
when  
of Ch  
degrad  
Peru  
afterw  
but he  
have  
human  
cause  
censur  
first  
Pacific  
been  
ror, a  
would  
Stripe  
the W  
Aft  
teen  
voyag  
Noot  
the  
few  
depa  
serve  
vesse  
the  
in fe  
those  
shore  
It  
Frie  
hous  
tire

gan  
and  
wer  
To