

comprised in Chapter IV. are invaluable, and embody all previous observations.

The shores of Juan de Fuca Strait were surveyed by Captain *Kellett* in 1847. Vancouver's work supplies the basis of our present knowledge of the inlets to the S.E. of it.

Vancouver's Island and the adjacent shores of the continent were admirably and minutely surveyed by the present hydrographer, Captain *G. H. Richards*, R.N., C.B., 1859—1865, assisted by several meritorious officers, of whom Captain *R. C. Mayne* and Messrs. *J. A. Bull* and *D. Pender* may be mentioned. The Vancouver Island Pilot, drawn up from the observations thus collected, forms the basis of Chapters V. and VI. It will be seen that we have added many important details from the very interesting works of *Lord Milton*, *Captain Mayne*, *Mr. Whympere*, and other adventurous and recent travellers. To the North of this Vancouver's work still remains the chief authority.

Of Alaska, the older authorities are still the chief, but of the Sitka Archipelago the Russian officers have made much better charts, published in 1848—1850, chiefly from the surveys of Capt. *Yassilieff*. Of the remainder of the territory of Alaska it is gratifying to find that our first edition is still considered to be useful, for the United States' Government have recently (in the present year) reprinted that portion as a guide for their newly acquired territory.

Proceeding to the north-west, the chief advances made in the hydrography arose out of the French and English Expeditions to China in 1854-7, and, for the new Russian possessions, their surveys of 1849—1854.

Our knowledge of Japan has greatly and rapidly improved. It may be said to have commenced with Commodore *Perry's* U.S. Expedition in 1853-4. The singular circumstances related on page 598 as to a remarkable and excellent native map, will be of great interest. It was drawn up by the astronomer *Takapasi Lakusaimon*, who destroyed himself when it was discovered that he had furnished a copy to a European resident. This has served in many parts as a basis of our knowledge, and this, with the surveys of Commanders *Ward* and *Brooker*, R.N., and especially of Commander