

The Discovery of the River "Roc"

(The Columbia)

Obeying instructions to keep together,
 If possible, in all kinds of weather,
 The ships were never so far away
 That "Kendrick" could not signal "Gray."
 Until the continent's stormy lip
 And southwest storms compelled each ship
 To brace "close hauled" in the heavy weather
 No longer to sail together,
 A wide "offing" of the stormy cape
 To "port" sharp braced they tried to make,
 The Penguins mournful cry,
 The only sound that life was nigh.

Turning her bows to the north at last,
 The "Washington" 'got the gale well aft.
 Up to "the line" she bravely drew
 Still to the north like a bird she flew,
 In good time, entered "Nootka's Sound,"
 And anchoring, held to historic ground;
 A Spanish "man o' war" she found.
 The Spanish King claimed all the land,
 Though France and England made demand
 That it was subject to discovery
 By any power that sailed the sea.
 Captain John Kendrick in the swirling storm
 Was battered cruelly off the "Horn,"
 Losing spars and many sails
 As the "Columbia" beat against the gales.