

## CHAPTER IX.

### NISQUALLY AND COLUMBIA RIVER.

1841.

On the 5th April, 1841, we had completed our repairs, and made arrangements for the transportation of our stores to the Columbia river by the brig Wave. The Porpoise was ordered to leave the harbour in the afternoon, and anchor near the Vincennes in the outer roads. Towards sunset we took leave of our kind and numerous friends, and the same night at 11<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup>, the signal was made for getting under way. We soon afterwards made sail, and steered to the westward, in order to pass between the islands of Oahu and Kauai.

Light winds prevailed for several days, during which we made but little progress. The second day after our departure, Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold made signal that the rudder of the Porpoise was out of order, and would not work. We therefore hove-to, and sent the carpenters of the Vincennes on board the Porpoise, who returned in a short time and reported that it was all right. The winds for these first few days were northerly, and therefore not only light, but contrary.

During this time the crew of the Porpoise was much afflicted with sickness. This, according to the report of Assistant-Surgeon Holmes, was caused by the constant labour which the men had undergone, and to their dissipation while in port. The cases were of a very serious character: four of them took the typhoid fever, and what was singular, seven of the persons affected were petty officers. The worst case was that of the carpenter, who had probably undergone more fatigue than any other person.