

quite as numerous as described by Vancouver, and continued to be seen in large quantities for the distance of six hundred miles.

On the 23d April, I changed my course again, to avoid running over that portion of sea which had been already traversed by others, and on that day we saw several flocks of small birds, like snipe in appearance. The wind favoured us, and carried us forward at a rapid rate.

In latitude 42° N., longitude 149° W., we lost sight of all the villula, and the thermometer fell to 51° . At night we had a heavy dew, and the temperature was as low as 46° . We now experienced a strong current setting to the southward and eastward. Petrels and albatrosses were seen in abundance.

On the 28th of April, at 6 A. M., we made Cape Disappointment, which we soon came up with. A heavy sea, caused by the strong winds that had prevailed for several days, was running. I, notwithstanding, stood for the bar of the Columbia river, after making every preparation to cross it; but on approaching nearer, I found breakers extending from Cape Disappointment to Point Adams, in one unbroken line.

I am at a loss to conceive how any doubt should ever have existed, that here was the mouth of the mighty river, whose existence was reported so long before the actual place of its discharge was known, or how the inquiring mind and talent of observation of Vancouver could have allowed him to hesitate, when he must have seen the evidence of a powerful flood of fresh water contending with the tides of the ocean, in a bar turbulent with breakers, in turbid waters extending several miles beyond the line of the shore, and in the marked line of separation between the sea and river water. Such appearances must be constant, and if seen, the inferences could hardly be questionable, that the great river of the west poured itself into the ocean at this point.

Mere description can give little idea of the terrors of the bar of the Columbia: all who have seen it have spoken of the wildness of the scene, and the incessant roar of the waters, representing it as one of the most fearful sights that can possibly meet the eye of the sailor. The difficulty of its channel, the distance of the leading sailing marks, their uncertainty to one unacquainted with them, the want of knowledge of the strength and direction of the currents, with the necessity of approaching close to unseen dangers, the transition from clear to turbid water, all cause doubt and mistrust.

Under such feelings I must confess that I felt myself labouring; and, although I had on board a person from the Sandwich Islands who pro-