

The ship was at once brought by the wind and all the studding-sails taken in.

The same discovery was made on board the Porpoise, and she was in the act of communicating it by signal. Neither of the vessels now had much water under their keels, and both were in imminent danger. We owed our safety to the good qualities of the vessels, which were on this occasion very evident, and to the conduct of the officers and crew, whose promptness and attention to the execution of the orders deserve my highest praise, and reflect great credit on their discipline.

Our situation caused me much anxiety for a short time; and this was one of the many hair-breadth escapes from wreck, incident to this cruise. The difficulty of our position was enhanced by the heavy sea we had to encounter, into which the vessels plunged so heavily as to endanger our spars. The same cause had prevented us from bending the chain cables, so that we had no means of anchoring until after we had passed the most dangerous points.

We had several casts of the lead in five, six, seven, eight, and nine fathoms.

In examining into the cause of our being found so unexpectedly in this position, I am led to believe that there is a current that sets upon the coast: and in this I was confirmed by trials made afterwards.

Soon after we were out of danger, it cleared up sufficiently to give us a view of the land, which proved to be Point Grenville of Vancouver, and Destruction Isle. The latter is easily known by some remarkable perforations through a rock near it.

Near Point Grenville, several accidents have happened, both to English and Russian vessels; and a boat's crew belonging to one of the latter, was inhumanly massacred by the Indians.

It was also near this spot, that the very remarkable occurrence of the wreck of a Japanese junk happened in the year 1833. The officers of the Hudson Bay Company became aware of this disaster in a singular manner. They received a drawing on a piece of China-paper, in which were depicted three shipwrecked persons, with the junk on the rocks, and the Indians engaged in plundering. This was sufficient to induce them to make inquiries; and Captain M'Niel was despatched to Cape Flattery to obtain further information, and afford relief, should it be needed.

He had the satisfaction to find the three Japanese, whom he rescued from slavery; and the Hudson Bay Company with characteristic liberality, sent them to England. Thence they took passage to China, where I understand they still remain, in consequence of their being unable to obtain a passage to Japan.