

GENERAL ORDER.

The undersigned informs the officers and crews under his command, that the duties upon which they are about to enter will necessarily bring them in contact at times with the savage and treacherous inhabitants of this coast; and he therefore feels it his duty to enjoin upon them the necessity of unceasing caution, and a restrictive and mild system in all their intercourse with them.

In my General Order of July 13th, 1839, my views are expressed fully respecting our intercourse with savages, and I expect that the injunctions therein contained will be strictly regarded.

With a knowledge that many of the misfortunes that have befallen previous voyagers on this coast, have arisen from an unrestrained and unguarded intercourse with the natives, he deems it important to order officers in charge of boats, and those having men under their direction, to make it their especial duty to govern them so as to avoid any disputes or maltreatment of the Indians, and that force is never to be resorted to but in cases of self-defence.

No officer or man will be allowed to visit the shore without arms; and boats' crews, when surveying or on other duty, will be furnished with such as are necessary for their protection.

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
May 1st, 1840.

We remained at Port Discovery until 6th May, during which time we were employed in surveying the harbour and exploring the country. Our botanists had a large and interesting field opened to them, and there are few places where the variety and beauty of the flora are so great as they are here. Dodecatheon, Viola, Trifolium, Leptosiphon, Scilla (the cammass of the natives), Collinsia, Claytonia, Stellaria, &c., vied with each other in beauty, and were in such profusion, as to excite both admiration and astonishment. According to Mr. Brackenridge, the soil on which the plants grow consists of a light-brown loam, but the general character of the soil around Port Discovery is a thin, black, vegetable mould, with a substratum of sand and gravel.

The trees grow so closely that in some places the woods are almost impenetrable. The timber consists principally of pine, fir, and spruce. Of the latter there are two species, one of which resembles the hemlock-spruce of the United States: it has a very tall growth, and puts out but few, and those small, lateral branches. Some maple-trees