

grow in the open grounds and on the banks, but they are too small to be of any service to the settler. Several trees which we cut down to make spars for the Vincennes, proved, although healthy in appearance before they were felled, to be more or less defective: the wood was sound and compact on one side only, while on the other it was open-grained and fibrous.

Several of the officers made excursions into the woods after game. In these they found much difficulty, in consequence of the quantity of fallen trees, that lay crossing each other in every direction. No large game, however, was seen. Of birds, crows, robins, &c., were in abundance; and some beautiful specimens of land-shells (*Helices*) were obtained.

Soon after our arrival at Port Discovery, I despatched an Indian with a letter to the fort of the Hudson Bay Company at Nisqually, at the upper end of Puget Sound, to request that a pilot might be sent me. My interview with the native whom I employed for this purpose was amusing. He appeared of a gay and lively disposition: the first thing he did, when brought into the cabin, was to show me a cross and repeat his ave, which he did with great readiness and apparent devotion; but he burst into loud laughter as soon as he had finished repeating it. He and I made many efforts to understand each other, but without much success, except so far as the transmission of the letter to Fort Nisqually, and the reward he was to receive on his return.

In the excursions of the officers, several burial-places were met with. The corpses are not interred; but are wrapped in mats and placed upon the ground in a sitting posture, and surrounded with stakes and pieces of plank to protect them from the weather and wild beasts.

On the 5th of May, the officers were all engaged in surveying, while I occupied one of the points as a station, where I made astronomical and magnetic observations. I found the latitude $48^{\circ} 02' 58''$ N.; the longitude $123^{\circ} 02' 07.5''$ W.; the variation was $20^{\circ} 40'$ E.

The temperature in the shade, was 55° .

On the 6th of May, finding that the messenger whom I had despatched to Fort Nisqually did not return, I determined to proceed towards that place without further delay. We therefore got under way at half-past ten, and beat out of Port Discovery: we then stood towards Point Wilson (of Vancouver), which forms one side of the entrance into Admiralty Inlet. Turning the point, we entered the inlet, and soon anchored in Port Townsend, on its northern side, in ten fathoms water.

Port Townsend is a fine sheet of water, three miles and a quarter