

charge of the fort, and Captain M'Neil. They gave me a warm welcome, and offered every assistance in their power to aid me in my operations.

Nothing can exceed the beauty of these waters, and their safety: not a shoal exists within the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet, Puget Sound, or Hood's Canal, that can in any way interrupt their navigation by a seventy-four gun ship. I venture nothing in saying, there is no country in the world that possesses waters equal to these.

The anchorage off Nisqually is very contracted, in consequence of the rapid shelving of the bank, that soon drops off into deep water. The shore rises abruptly, to a height of about two hundred feet, and on the top of the ascent is an extended plain, covered with pine, oak, and ash trees, scattered here and there so as to form a park-like scene. The hill-side is mounted by a well-constructed road, of easy ascent. From the summit of the road the view is beautiful, over the sound and its many islands, with Mount Olympus covered with snow for a background. Fort Nisqually, with its out-buildings and enclosure, stands back about half a mile from the edge of the table-land.

In the morning I found that the ship lay opposite to a small run of water, and finding the situation an agreeable one, the Vincennes was safely moored there, and the boats hoisted out.

Having arranged my plans, I proceeded forthwith to put so much of them as lay within my own means into execution: the Porpoise and boats were prepared for surveying, and the land parties organized. Other parts of my proposed plans depended on the co-operation of the Peacock. My instructions, for this purpose, to Captain Hudson had been prepared previous to our arrival. I had, also, been informed that the Peacock and Flying-Fish had reached the Columbia river in safety; and this news, although it turned out to be untrue, was for the moment a source of congratulation.

The Porpoise, with two of the Vincennes' boats, under Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, were directed to take up the survey of Admiralty Inlet. The launch, first cutter and two boats of the Vincennes were placed under the command of Lieutenant Case, to survey Hood's Canal.\* The land party intended to explore the interior, was placed under the command of Lieutenant Johnson of the Porpoise. With him were associated Dr. Pickering, Mr. T. W. Waldron of the Porpoise, Mr. Brackenridge, Sergeant Stearns, and two men. Eighty days were allowed for the operations of this party, which it was intended should cross the Cascade range of mountains, towards the

\* For orders, see Appendix XI