

CHAPTER XII.

PUGET SOUND AND OKONAGAN.

1841.

ON my return to Nisqually, my first care had reference to our provision of bread. This I found to be so far expended as to make it necessary to economize it by every means in my power, if I wished to avoid its falling short. I therefore determined to attempt to have fresh bread baked. With this view I had an oven built upon a plan borrowed from the steam-holes of the Indians. The bottom of the oven was formed upon a stage of plank, and the shape of the superstructure was given by bending twigs of hazel. These were covered with a plastic clay, which was found in abundance in the neighbourhood. A dough-trough was hollowed out of the trunk of a large tree. When the oven and trough were ready, another difficulty was to be overcome, for we had no bakers. This was remedied, however, by the assistance of our stewards and cooks; and two sailors instructed by them were appointed to take charge of the bakery. We now began to bake daily, and succeeded so well after a day or two, that the whole ship's company was daily supplied with full rations of soft bread, causing an important saving in our store of sea-biscuit.

I learned, immediately upon my return, that the surveys under Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold and Lieutenant Case, were making rapid progress. The former, with the force under him, had completed a large portion of Admiralty Inlet; the latter had finished Hood's Canal, and had returned to take up the survey of Puget Sound. A report having been made to me, that one of the eye-pieces of the theodolite had been lost in Hood's Canal, Lieutenant Budd was ordered to relieve Lieutenant Case, and the latter was despatched to search for it. Lieutenant Case proceeded in a boat well armed, and visited all