

On the 12th, at seven o'clock, we began our surveying operations, and after a hard day's work, joined Lieutenant Case's party, when I took charge of the whole. My force, which now consisted of seven boats and their crews, was sufficiently strong to make rapid progress: the putting up of signals, the triangulation, and soundings, were all carried on at the same time. When we reached our encampment at night, the rough draft of our day's work was completed. We continued thus employed until the 17th, when we reached the ships, having completed the surveys of all the numerous branches of this sound: these all afford safe navigation for large vessels. The land is low, and well covered with various kinds of trees, among which the pine predominates: the other trees, consisting of spruces, oaks, arbutus, alders, and great quantities of seringias in full blossom, reminded me of our gardens at home. The perfume of the flowers scented the air for a long distance around. Some of the seringia-bushes were from twelve to fifteen feet high.

The soil is in some places good, but in others it is quite light and sandy. At the head of all the branches there are extensive mud-flats, and some small patches of salt meadow. We did not meet with many natives: those who inhabit this region were probably employed in taking fish, and they seldom remain in any place beyond the time necessary for this purpose.

On my return to the ship, I found that Lieutenant Johnson had returned, with the party of which he had charge. I shall therefore give in this place an account of their journey, and the country through which they passed, referring the reader to my orders to Lieutenant Johnson, in Appendix XII., for the route intended to be passed over, and the duties to be performed. But before leaving Nisqually, I have a few words to say about its position, and the Indian tribe of that name.

The situation of Nisqually is badly chosen for trade, for the anchorage is of small extent, and only a few vessels can be accommodated within a reasonable distance of the shore. It would also be much exposed to the southwest winds, and the hill is an insuperable objection to its becoming a place of deposit for merchandise, as it would very much increase the labour and expense of transportation. The Nisqually fort or post was chosen, as I have been informed, before the Company had an idea of transporting any articles by water. It has, however, one great recommendation, in the ease with which water may be obtained from the stream that flows in abreast of the anchorage. Much better places than Nisqually could be found in this vicinity, for the location of a town. There is one, in particular, just within Kitron's