

afforded us in the equipment of the land-parties, and the hospitalities they extended to both officers and crew.

The breeze sprung up at two o'clock, when the anchor was hove up and sail made. The change in the organization of the land-party delayed us for a short time, but the gentlemen whom I had appointed to it were ready in a few minutes, and left the ship, upon which we immediately bore away to the Narrows.

It is no more than justice to Messrs. Eld and Colvocoressis, to acknowledge the promptness and good spirit with which they undertook the duty thus unexpectedly assigned them, and I take the same occasion to state that the manner in which they performed their task, and overcame the many difficulties which impeded its execution, merit my warmest thanks.

It would be difficult to give the reader an idea of the anxieties that beset me at this juncture. Day after day had passed in the anxious expectation of receiving news of the Peacock and Flying-Fish, until a conviction became general, with both officers and crew, that some serious accident had occurred to one or both of them, among the dangerous coral reefs and islands they had been sent to explore. They were now three months later than the time appointed for their arrival at the Columbia river.

For my own part, after reviewing the whole of the duties assigned to Captain Hudson in my instructions, and again estimating the time necessary to fulfil them, I could not but apprehend, from the length to which his voyage was protracted, that disaster had occurred. In this state of feeling, the officers of the Vincennes showed a highly commendable spirit, and aware that additional labours were thus to be thrown upon them, strained every nerve to avoid any further loss of time. The officers of the Porpoise, as I was informed by Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, manifested an equally praiseworthy spirit.

With the aid of both wind and tide, we succeeded in getting through the pass at the Narrows before dark, and when this was effected, I anchored under Vashon's Island for the night.

The next day we made but little progress, owing to light winds, and a strong tide against us.

On the 19th, we anchored off Port Lawrence, and near the entrance to Hood's Canal, and on the 20th came to anchor in New Dungeness Roads, which I had assigned for a rendezvous with the Porpoise, which vessel joined us on the same day.

I shall now revert for a short time to the surveying operations, performed under instructions embraced in my orders of the 11th of May, which will be found in Appendix XI.