

Many Indians, who were all cheerful and well disposed, visited the port during the continuance of the survey.

Port Orchard was found to communicate, on the north, with Port Madison, which we had surveyed on our way up the sound. Lieutenant Maury, with the boats, surveyed this passage, and found that it had a depth of four and a half fathoms water at low tide.

Near this passage is a place where the Roman Catholic missionaries have established a station for teaching the surrounding tribes. A large cross is erected, and a building one hundred and seventy-two feet long by seventy-two wide, which was found to contain many rude images. Many of the natives are capable of saying their prayers and telling their beads, and some were met with who could sing some Catholic hymns in their own language.

The Indians frequenting this port called themselves of the Je-ach-tac tribe.

On the 31st, the same meteor that was observed by the other surveying parties was seen. Its first appearance was at an altitude of sixty degrees. Its course was not directly downward, but zigzag, and it disappeared at an elevation of twenty degrees. Its track continued luminous for half an hour, and gradually changed its shape, becoming wider and less elongated. There was no explosion heard by any of the parties.

The next point visited and surveyed was Penn's Cove, between Whidby's Island and the main. This island contains many small villages, and appears to be more thickly peopled than other parts of the sound. It is in possession of the Sachet tribe, who have here a permanent settlement, consisting of large and well-built lodges of timber and planks, similar to those already described on the Columbia and elsewhere. The chief possessed a chest of valuables, carefully preserved in a corner, the contents of which were shown by him with no small pride, and consisted of a long roll of paper, on which were many representations of European houses and churches, together with rude sketches of the heavenly bodies, and a map of America. These had been given to him and explained by the Roman Catholic priest, and he seemed to understand the explanation. This whole tribe are Catholics, and have much affection and reverence for their instructors.

The priests of the Catholic mission made half-yearly visits, baptizing and leaving tokens among these Indians, and have done much good in promoting a good feeling among them. They were constructing a large building for a church, near which was erected a large cross.