

have the reputation of being treacherous and warlike. Many of them were fantastically painted, that is, besmeared with oil, soot, and red paint. Their dress consists of a native blanket, made of dog's hair interspersed with feathers: this is much more highly valued than the bought ones, but is rarely to be obtained. The clamour made by our numerous visitors alongside was very great, and their offers of articles were without much regard to the priority of rank, station, or any thing else.

The practice of flattening the head is prevalent here, but perhaps not so universal as among the other tribes we have seen. George, or King George, invited me to visit him at Tatouche, his village, about half a mile nearer to Cape Flattery than the place where the ship lay; but I had no time to spare. He informed me they had fifty lodges, made of planks, similar to those already described. His tribe live principally upon fish, of which they catch large quantities; and when a whale is taken, they literally gorge themselves with the blubber.

It was reported to me, late in the afternoon, that a ball had been fired at some of the sailors engaged in surveying; but it did not do any damage, striking the beach some little distance from them. I did not think it worth while to make any inquiry or disturbance about this matter, and only mention the fact to caution those who may hereafter visit this port that it is necessary to be upon their guard.

At 2 P. M. we got under way, with the Porpoise in company, and succeeded in making an offing before the fog enveloped us. These fogs are one of the greatest annoyances to vessels arriving on this coast; for, in fine weather, they are experienced almost daily, coming up with the sea-breeze, continuing throughout the night, and until the sun has sufficient power the next day to dissipate them.

In leaving De Fuca's Straits I anxiously watched for De Fuca's Pillar, and soon obtained a sketch of it, which is represented in the wood-cut at the end of this chapter.

During the night of the 3d, we lost sight of the Porpoise, and the return-signal to our guns soon became inaudible. The only guide one has on this coast during the fogs, is the lead; and vessels drifting into less water than fifteen fathoms, should anchor until they obtain a wind to carry them off.

The weather continued cold and chilly, with light rain; and we passed down the coast in eighty and ninety fathoms water. The soundings varied from rock, gravel, and sand, to a soft unctuous mud, of a deep-blue colour.

The morning of the 5th August, the Porpoise was discovered astern, which relieved me from any apprehension of detention.