

11^h 50^m, they again tacked to stand in. The tender at this time was several miles to leeward.

At meridian, the wind came out from the southward and westward, with the weather a little cloudy; soon after which time the ship was off the entrance, and all hands were called to work her into port. Lieutenant Emmons was now sent aloft, on the foretopsail-yard, while Captain Hudson attended personally to the piloting of the ship, agreeably to the directions before spoken of, which he held in his hand. The ship was, according to Captain Hudson's report, running a north-east-quarter-east course, heading for Cape Disappointment, until the proper bearing of Chinook Point east-northeast was reached, when they discovered the sea breaking ahead of them. He now believed himself too far to the southward, wore ship, and ran off a short distance, until clear of the breakers, after which they again stood in, where the passage appeared clear and smooth, both from below and aloft. In less than five minutes, the ship touched. Lieutenant Emmons, who was on the look-out aloft, together with Lieutenant Perry, who also was similarly engaged, both state that they were of opinion that the only place where the channel existed was where the water did not break, and agreeing as it did so nearly with the sailing directions, Captain Hudson did not hesitate to attempt to proceed through the smoother part.

I am well aware that many opinions have been, and probably still are entertained, relative to the prudence of venturing with the ship before the channel had been explored and examined by the tender and boats. This is but natural to one unacquainted with the bar of the Columbia river and its dangers. After having paid much attention to this subject, and having been engaged there with the tender and boats in the survey, I feel myself entitled to give an opinion as to the course pursued by Captain Hudson, and think it altogether correct, on every ground of expediency, as well as the only proper one for him to have followed under these circumstances. It will be recollected that he had been detained nearly three months beyond his appointed time, and that he was well aware that this would occasion much inconvenience to the progress of our duties; his anxiety to prevent any farther delay, even of a few hours, can readily be imagined. The time was, to all appearance, propitious, and hesitation then might have rendered it impossible to have entered for a week. The tender going in ahead would have been little or no security, for she would, undoubtedly, have pursued the same course, and have been, in all probability, lost; and thus the Peacock would have been obliged at last to trust to the know-