

survey, one of the small boats of the Porpoise, that we had in tow, was, through the negligence of her crew, capsized. Every thing in her except her oars was lost, and in addition to this the accident caused us much detention.

In the afternoon we reached Katalamet Point, and anchored at the lower end of Puget Island, where we passed the next day (Sunday). On Monday we again resumed our surveying duties, and reached Oak Point, where the river takes a turn to the southward and eastward. On the 24th, Lieutenant Emmons joined me, and received his instructions to pass through the country to the south, and join the ship at San Francisco. His instructions will be found in Appendix IV. Just before reaching Walker's Island we ran aground, by the pilot mistaking his marks, but were soon relieved. In the evening of the next day, we reached Mount Coffin, at the mouth of the Cowlitz. This mount afforded a favourable point for astronomical observations, being seven hundred and ten feet high, and quite isolated. The canoes used by the Indians as coffins are seen upon it in every direction, in all stages of decay. They are supported between trees, at the height of four or five feet above the ground, and about them are hung the utensils that had belonged to the deceased, or that had been offered as tokens of respect.

I remained the whole day on the top of this mount, and obtained a full set of observations; the weather being remarkably clear and beautiful. Here my boat's crew carelessly omitted to extinguish the fire they had used for cooking our dinner, and as we were pulling off to the brig, I regretted to see that the fire had spread, and was enveloping the whole area of the mount; but there was no help for it. The fire continued to rage throughout the night, until all was burnt. I took the earliest opportunity of explaining to the Indians who were in the neighbourhood, that the fire was accidental; and, after receiving a few small presents, they appeared satisfied that it was so. But a few years earlier, the consequence of such carelessness would have been a hostile attack, that might have involved us in difficulty of no ordinary kind. We had a minor punishment to undergo, for the smoke was so great that it enveloped all the signals towards the mouth of the river, and made it necessary for me to anchor within sight of Mount Coffin till the next morning.

Before reaching the mouth of the Willamette, better known here as the Wapautoo Branch, a long flat extends across the river, where we were again unfortunately detained a few hours, by getting aground. Warrior's Point, the locality where Mr. Wyeth proposed to erect his great city of the west, was passed; and on the 28th, at sunset, we