

and Captains M'Niel and Scarborough, the party was not left in want of any thing very material.

The party under command of Mr. Eld, consisted of Passed Midshipman Colvocoressis, Mr. Brackenridge, Sergeant Stearns, privates Rodgers and Dinsman, John Brooks (seaman), Thomas Ford and Henry Waltham (ordinary seamen), with a half-breed boy, named Joe, who was to act as their interpreter.

They left Nisqually on the 19th of July, and proceeded towards one of the southwest arms of Puget Sound (of which we had but a few days before finished the survey) in two canoes, that had been purchased. They were sorry craft, but better could not be procured, and Mr. Eld was not disposed to delay on account of imaginary difficulties. His instructions will be found in Appendix XIV., Vol. IV.

I had told him he might be absent for forty days on his own resources, as I calculated he would, by the assistance of the Indians, be able to obtain both fish and game. I also enjoined upon him great attention to economy in the use of his provisions.

On the same evening, he arrived within a short distance of the portage; and the next morning Mr. Colvocoressis went, with the sergeant and boy, to an old squaw chief, who had promised, at Nisqually, to be their guide to the Sachal river, and to furnish horses and men to cross the portage. They returned at an early hour, without either horses or Indians, but with a promise that they were to be furnished the next day. The next morning they found that the chief had arrived, with five horses and a number of Indians, and was ready to transport the baggage. Some time, however, elapsed before an arrangement could be made for the large canoe, which was thought to be too heavy to transport; but this was finally settled by the same personage offering another in lieu of it, which, though of smaller dimensions, was accepted. Ten Indians were furnished to transport it and the rest of the articles, and they were soon in a condition to move. This despatch was principally owing to the directions and management of the squaw chief, who seemed to exercise more authority than any that had been met with; indeed, her whole character and conduct placed her much above those around her. Her horses were remarkably fine animals; her dress was neat, and her whole establishment bore the indications of Indian opulence. Although her husband was present, he seemed under such good discipline, as to warrant the belief that the wife was the ruling power, or, to express it in more homely language, "wore the breeches."

The portage was easily accomplished: it passes through a forest of lofty spruce and maple trees, with an undergrowth of common hazel