

painted; a few of the oldest wore rings on their ankles, and all had their noses pierced for them. My guides painted at Ninstants both black and red, and urged me to do so, saying that it would not only improve my appearance, but prevent the skin from blistering. The preservation of their complexion I find to be the principal reason for painting by the women. They are the fairest on the Coast, and evidently conscious of it. One young woman, exceptionally good looking, ran to a brook upon our approach, and quickly washed off the unsightly pitch, deer tallow and charcoal, that she might appear in all her native charms.

Until we rounded Cape St. James, the extreme southern portion of the islands, we encountered but little disagreeably rough sea. Opposite Barnaby Island, however, we were struck by a heavy squall, which swept our canoe over the surface of the water for more than 200 feet and to within about twenty feet of a precipitous rocky shore, upon which the waves were dashing furiously, before we could recover the use of the oars. But, from the cape northwest, it was a continuous battle amidst storms from all quarters, encountering strong adverse winds and much of what the Indians called *hyas solleks chuck* (very rough sea). I could then understand why, before leaving, they had inquired so carefully of Mr. McGregor, who recommended that I had a *skookum tumtum* (a stout heart), and of me personally whether I was subject to sea sickness. We were four days rounding one point, making three unsuccessful attempts, the Indians turning back, but not until our canoe had been nearly swamped by heavy breakers. The skill of the natives in handling the canoe is something wonderful. When once at sea, I left its entire management to their judgment. On one occasion, when off a rocky point, we were struck by a heavy sea with alarming force. To advance was seen to be impossible, and to turn back was almost equally perilous. It was no time for indecision, for another great breaker was rolling toward us. With a single signal word from the helmsman, with perfect coolness, a few powerful strokes at just the right time reversed our little bark, and we were soon in safe water again.

For considerable distances on the west coast rocky precipitous mountains face the sea, in places not less than 1,500 feet in height, almost perpendicular, rising over 4,000 feet within a few miles back. When running the gauntlet of the storms along these forbidding shores we looked into the mouths of several dark caverns of unknown depth. Twice Indian Tom raised his paddle, placed four small wads of tobacco thereon, and, with a supplicating motion of his right hand toward these caverns, made an offering to the spirits which are supposed to inhabit them, praying that we might have a safe voyage. Here we found what I believe to be the grandest scenery of the Queen Charlotte Islands. We had been pulling for six hours against head winds, squalls and rough seas along this rocky, high walled shore, which seemed to offer no place where a landing would be possible, when suddenly the canoe turned toward land, ran through a narrow rock-bound passage into a little

basin about fifty rods square, surrounded by mountains rising up precipitously from 1,500 to 2,500 feet, down which ten cataracts were plunging. Grand View Inlet, or whatever it may be called, is situated about eight miles south of Tanoo Harbor. As we were leaving it two land otters were seen swimming near the shore. Giving chase, one of them ran out upon the land, where, after an exciting hunt with dogs, it was killed. One evening, as we were camping in a rocky cove, Indian Sam suddenly seized his gun, ran down to the shore, and mounted a great rock where seal had been seen. Presently he fired, and then stripping off his shirt, dove headlong into the sea. He soon rose to the surface grasping a great seal, with which he swam to the shore. Although they had eaten a hearty supper they sat up until midnight gorging themselves with its excessively fat meat. They had one continual feast from the beginning to the end of the expedition, devouring, besides the supplies taken with us, seal, wild geese, duck, octopus clams, halibut, mussels, sea eggs, birds' eggs, fish spawn, salmon, etc., in great quantities. On the thirty-third day after leaving Massett, I returned to Skidegate through Skidegate Channel, where I again refitted for the west coast of Graham Island and the Virago Sound country, next to be traversed.

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DISCOVERY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

THE Treaty of Ryswick was concluded in 1695, in which was a provision defining the boundaries of the colonial possessions of the various rival nations in America. This was definite and positive, but owing to the crude ideas of American geography which prevailed at that time, was imperfect in many respects. Florida, as the Spanish possessions north of Mexico were called, was bordered on the north by the Carolinas, but farther west the boundaries were quite indefinite, conflicting with the Louisiana of the French. France claimed as Louisiana all north of the mouth of the Mississippi and west of the Alleghanies, the western boundary being indefinite because no one knew how far towards the Occident the continent extended. She also claimed the region of the St. Lawrence and the chain of great lakes under the general title of Canada, these two provinces joining and interlacing without any line of division either expressed or understood. The Hudson's Bay country was also claimed by France, though not with much persistence, and it was at that time actually in the possession of England, in the person of the Hudson's Bay Company. The English colonies were east of the Alleghanies, from Maine to Georgia. In 1713 France relinquished to England her claim upon the Hudson's Bay region, and turned her attention to strengthening her position in Canada and Louisiana.

During the latter part of the seventeenth century and the first half of the eighteenth, French explorers and Jesuit missionaries traversed the Mississippi Valley, established a chain of stations between Canada and Louisiana, among them the city of St. Louis, and even penetrated the unknown wilderness lying between the