

er, though in his narrative he lays claim to a more extended journey westward. In 1776, in London, he published an alleged account of his adventures, which has been proved to consist chiefly of extracts from the previous narratives of the French explorers and missionaries. In this account he calls the River of the West, the Oregon, the first use of that name ever made in literature. He does not claim to have seen the river, but to have received information in regard to it from the Indians. It was this name whose poetic sound, associated with the idea of an almost unknown wilderness of forest and mountain, gave Bryant inspiration for these lines in "Thanatopsis:"

Take the wings

Of morning, the Barcan desert pierce,
Or lose thyself in the continuous woods
Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound,
Save his own dashings—

One year before Captain Carver published his book, and thus added a new name to this River of the West, the mouth of the stream was observed by a Spanish navigator. On August 15th, 1775, Captain Bruno Heceta, commanding the *Santiago*, while returning along the coast from a voyage of exploration to the northward, noticed an opening in the land, from which flowed a stream of water with great force. He endeavored to enter, but the current baffled his efforts for an entire day. He naturally supposed it to be the Rio de Aguilar, but as he could not enter sufficiently to prove that it was a river, he called it an inlet, and entered it on his chart as the *Ensenada de Asuncion*. The point of land to the north he christened Cabo de San Roque, and that to the south Cabo de Frondoso. The next adventurous navigator to observe and attempt to enter the Columbia, was Captain John Meares, an Englishman engaged in the fur trade. In his vessel, the *Felice Ad-*

venturer, he arrived off the mouth of the river on the sixth of July, 1788. After making several vain efforts to approach the shore, he concluded that the inlet was only a shallow bay, and named it Deception bay. He also changed the name of the promontory of San Roque, to Cape Disappointment, and entering on his journal the conclusion that "there is no such river as that of St. Roc exists as laid down on the Spanish charts," he sailed away, disappointed.

In 1792 Captain George Vancouver, in the *Discovery*, and Lieutenant W. R. Broughton, in the *Chatham*, appeared on the Oregon coast, and after a vain search for the River Aguilar, arrived off the Columbia on April 27th, but after observing the entrance, came to the conclusion that it was but a bay, into which one or more small rivers discharged their waters, and consequently, sailed away, deeming it unworthy his further attention. Two days later he fell in with the American ship *Columbia Rediviva*, commanded by Captain Robert Gray, who told him that he was positive there was a great river discharging into Deception bay, as he had endeavored for several days to enter it, and had been prevented by the force of the current. Vancouver was still incredulous, and they separated. On May 11th, 1792, the *Columbia* crossed the bar, and sailing ten miles up the stream, cast anchor in the broad estuary below Tongue point. To the great river he thus proved to exist, Gray gave the name of his vessel. He also bestowed the name Hancock upon the cape previously called San Roque by Heceta, and Disappointment by Captain Meares. Cape Frondoso he rechristened Point Adams. He remained nine days, during which time he sailed up the river twenty-five miles from the bar. On the nineteenth of the following October, Vancouver again appeared off the mouth of the river, provided with a rough map