

of the entrance, made by Gray. The *Chatham* crossed the bar, and the *Discovery* remained outside. Broughton ascended in a boat, as far as the site of the present town of Vancouver, but failed to observe the mouth of the Willamette. He did, however, discover and name Mt. Hood, and Vancouver himself saw St. Helens, from his position outside the bar, and gave it the name it now bears. Broughton took formal possession of the river in the name of King George, and then returned to his vessel, crossed over the bar, and sailed away in company with his senior officer.

In 1803, France sold Louisiana to the United States, and the following year two army officers, Capt. Meriweather Lewis and Capt. William Clarke, led the first overland expedition from the Mississippi to the Pacific. They ascended the Missouri, crossed the summit of the Rockies to the Snake, descended that river to the Columbia, and reached the ocean at Cape Hancock on the fifteenth of November, 1805. They wintered at Clatsop, and the following spring began the return journey, discovering the Willamette as they passed, and naming it Multnomah. They reached St. Louis on the twenty-fifth of September, 1806, with a fund of information which shed a great light upon the darkness which had, until then, enshrouded the geography of the Columbia river region. Their names were bestowed upon the two largest tributaries of the great river, Snake, or Sahaptin, river being called Lewis' Fork, and the other, Clarke's Fork, the latter being, however, the only one now retained. In 1811, the Pacific Fur Company founded Astoria, at the mouth of the river, and two years later sold it to the Northwest Company, who were, eight years afterward, succeeded by the Hudson's Bay Company. Trapping parties of these and various American fur companies, roamed over

this entire region, and it was not long before the full extent and character of the Columbia became well known.

The Columbia is one of the mighty rivers of the world. It gathers the rains and melting snows of a vast region, and pours them in a broad and deep stream into the great Pacific. One branch, the Snake, or Lewis' Fork, rises in Wyoming, in the rugged, and almost impenetrable, Teton mountains, and in the southern portion of the National Park of the Yellowstone, but a few miles from the headwaters of the Missouri; another, the Clarke's Fork, finds its source in Montana, near the fountain head of another branch of the Missouri; the third, or main stream, rises in the Rocky mountains, in British Columbia, sweeps northward around the Selkirk mountains, flows south, between that range and the Gold mountains, into the United States, to mingle its waters with those of the Clarke's Fork and Snake, and with them to cut through the Cascade mountains the grand gorge of the Columbia, and thus gain an outlet to the ocean.

Since man first dwelt on the banks of this noble stream, the beauty of its scenery has been the theme of pen and pencil. Artists have painted it in all the glory of its sunsets, its verdured banks and beetling cliffs, its cascades and waterfalls, and its overshadowing peaks of eternal snow, while masters of the pen have given full rein to their enthusiasm, till the fame of the mighty River of the West has penetrated into every nook and corner of the world where the English language is spoken. Time was, when Americans, having visited the great Niagara, and spent a few days in the Adirondacks, the Catskills or White mountains, felt compelled to hasten across the Atlantic to view the granddeurs of nature; but now, how changed! The pioneer of the West has opened up