

to a large lake-like expanse of water, with a river flowing into its upper end. A few fish were caught, and several birds (fine ducks, geese, &c.) were shot.

Amongst the numerous picnic parties scattered over the shore, some "by accident" set the long grass on fire, which speedily communicated with the trees and foliage, and after a short time fires were raging with great fury, sweeping up the valleys and along the shore, continuing all the remainder of the day. As night advanced, it was a grand sight; the roaring of the fire in the stillness of the night, and the bright glare illuminating the hill-tops and placid waters of the harbour, had a fine effect.

GRAY HARBOUR TO PORT GRAPPLER.

Jan. 4th.—The fire still burnt in various directions, and trees and shrubs continued to fall under its devouring effect as we left the anchorage, steaming onwards past Indian Reach. The morning was fine, and a bright, clear calm allowed us to fully enjoy the splendid scenery on either side of the channel. We had now entered the English Narrows, where great care is necessary in navigating, for a strong current sweeps through, and a small islet (Mid-Channel Island), situate in the narrowest part, requires to be quickly rounded. After clearing these intricate passages, we came into broader water. The nearer hills rose perpendicularly out of the waters,