

**SAILING DIRECTIONS FOR THE WEST COAST OF
NORTH AMERICA: EMBRACING THE COASTS OF
CENTRAL AMERICA, CALIFORNIA, OREGON,
FUCA STRAIT, PUGET SOUND, VANCOUVER
ISLAND, AND THE ISLANDS AND ROCKS OFF THE
COASTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND
CALIFORNIA. WITH AN APPENDIX**

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Sailing Directions for the West Coast of North America: Embracing the Coasts of Central America, California, Oregon, Fuca Strait, Puget Sound, Vancouver Island, and the Islands and Rocks off the Coasts of Central America and California. With an Appendix by James Imray

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JAMES IMRAY

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NORTH AMERICA: EMBRACING THE COASTS OF
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SAILING DIRECTIONS

FOR

THE WEST COAST OF NORTH
AMERICA.

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EMBRACING

THE COASTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA, CALIFORNIA,
OREGON, FUCA STRAIT, PUGET SOUND, VANCOUVER ISLAND,
AND THE ISLANDS AND ROCKS
OFF THE COASTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND CALIFORNIA.

WITH AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING VARIOUS REMARKS ON THE WINDS, TIDES, CURRENTS, &c.

CAREFULLY COMPILED
FROM THE MOST RECENT SURVEYS MADE BY ORDER OF THE BRITISH,
UNITED STATES, SPANISH, AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS.

LONDON:
JAMES IMRAY, 102, MINORIES.

1853.

P R E F A C E

THE rapid development of the resources of California and Oregon, and the increase of commerce with the countries on the sea-board of Central America, have had the effect of raising into importance many ports which, but a few years since, afforded only an occasional shelter to whalers. Hitherto, there has been but little call for a work of this nature, but as the countries of Western America are daily becoming of more commercial value, and the ports are visited less as harbours of occasional shelter than as places of trade, a work affording some information to the seaman, however scanty, of the ports he is about to visit, has become necessary. In the compilation of this work considerable difficulty has been experienced, from the want of information that could be considered authentic and trustworthy, no complete survey having yet been made of the West Coast of North America, although detached portions of it have been from time to time examined by the various expeditions sent out for that purpose by the governments of Great Britain, the United States, France, and Spain. From the works resulting from these examinations we have obtained much information, although it cannot in every case be considered so satisfactory as we might wish, still, through their means, we have, to some extent, become acquainted with many parts of which we were previously in entire ignorance; we have also embodied much private information with the object of making the work as complete and serviceable as possible. The information thus brought together, it will be seen, cannot be connected so well as might be desired, seeing that

each observer had either a specific portion of coast to examine, or only took a general survey of it without entering into details. All the information, however, which might be useful to the mariner has been collected together, and it only remains for us to add that we shall avail ourselves, in future editions, of any hydrographical information that may tend to the improvement of this work, and shall always thankfully receive communications from correspondents which may contribute to its future usefulness.

Several of the ports of Central America have been examined by Sir Edward Belcher, from whose work we have obtained many remarks; and a survey of the coasts of California and Oregon is now in progress, by order of the United States Government, the completion of which will tend still further to improve our knowledge of these countries. Fuca Strait, Admiralty Inlet, and Puget Sound, have been so well examined by Vancouver, Commander Wilkes, Captain Kellett, and others, that we believe but little remains to add to our acquaintance with these extensive inland waters. It is also right to mention that the pages of the Nautical Magazine have materially assisted us in the completion of the work.

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SAILING DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

WEST COAST OF NORTH AMERICA.

* THE BEARINGS ARE ALL BY COMPASS, UNLESS WHEN OTHERWISE EXPRESSED. THE SOUNDINGS ARE REDUCED TO THE LEVEL OF LOW WATER, SPRING TIDES.

IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN ORDERED BY THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY, THAT THE WORD "PORT" IS TO BE USED INSTEAD OF THE WORD "LARBOARD," IN ALL H. M. VESSELS, IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE SIMILARITY EXISTING BETWEEN THE WORDS LARBOARD AND STARBOARD.

THE COASTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA, &c.

BEFORE giving a nautical description of the Bays and Harbours of Central America, a few remarks on the geography and natural features of the country, will not be considered out of place.

CENTRAL AMERICA comprehends all the territory lying between Mexico on the north, and the Isthmus of Darien, or Panama, on the south. Its entire length is 1,000 miles, and its breadth varies from upwards of 100 miles to 300; giving an area of 200,000 square miles, or more than twice the extent of Great Britain. Situated in the torrid zone, between 8° and 18° N. latitude, and 80° and 90° W. longitude, it at once separates the Atlantic from the Pacific Ocean, and unites the continents of North and South America; a position as important commercially, as it is geographically remarkable and unique.

It includes the fine independent states of Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica; and also British Honduras, and the Mosquito Shore. It is bounded on the north by Mexico; on the west and south by the Pacific; and on the east by the Caribbean Sea, and the Bay of Honduras.