

NAME OF MOUNT SAINT HELENS

In this *Quarterly*, Volume XI., Number 3, (July, 1920,) page 217, there appeared a record of the naming of Mount Saint Helens by Captain George Vancouver in October, 1792, who explained simply "in honor of His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at the Court of Madrid." Inquiries, especially from the new city of Longview, about the personality of the ambassador thus honored have prompted a gleaning of the following facts:

Alleyne Fitzherbert was born in 1753. He was schooled at Derby and Eton and in July, 1770, matriculated as a pensioner at St. John's College, Cambridge. Thomas Gray, the poet visited him and wrote to William Mason: "the little Fitzherbert is come as pensioner to St. John's, and seems to have all his wits about him." While the boy was still in college his father, in 1772, committed suicide on account of pecuniary trouble. The mother was evidently a superior woman for Doctor Johnson said "she had the best understanding he ever met with in any human being."

On receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1774, the young man made a tour of France and Italy and in 1777 received the Master's degree by proxy as he began his diplomatic career by being appointed Minister at Brussels. In 1782, Lord Shelburne sent him to Paris to seek a peace with France and Spain. He had no part in the famous treaty of 1783 which brought the desired peace and acknowledged the independence of the United States, but it is claimed that his preliminary work aided that final agreement.

In 1783, Fitzherbert was promoted to be Envoy Extraordinary to Empress Catherine of Russia, accompanying that sovereign on a tour of the Crimea in 1787, when he returned to England and became Chief Secretary of Marquis Buckingham, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

He was appointed Envoy Extraordinary at The Hague in 1789 and was transferred the next year to the Court at Madrid to settle the controversy that had arisen over the seizure of English vessels by Spaniards at Nootka Sound on the northwest coast of America. War was imminent. It looked for a time as if the new Republic of the United States would be drawn into it on one side or the other. Washington and his Cabinet decided upon neutrality, the first official act in that American policy which later devel-

oped into the Monroe Doctrine. The British Ambassador Fitzherbert averted the war by signing at Madrid the so-called Nootka Convention on October 28, 1790. For this achievement he was raised to the Irish peerage with the title of Baron Saint Helens.

In 1793 he concluded a treaty of alliance between Spain and Great Britain and on January 11, 1794, signed the "Supplemental Treaty of Madrid" as a final settlement of the Nootka Sound controversy. On March 25, 1794, he was transferred as Ambassador at The Hague where his friends feared for his safety when the French were successful in that country.

On July 16, 1797, he sustained a severe loss when his house burned and he barely escaped with his life. Lord Minto wrote: "He has lost every scrap of paper he ever had. Conceive how inconsolable that loss must be to one who has lived his life. All his books, many fine pictures, prints and drawings in great abundance are all gone."

He was sent to St. Petersburg in April, 1801, to congratulate Emperor Alexander on his succession to the throne and to arrange a treaty between Great Britain and Russia. On completion of that work Baron Saint Helens was raised to the peerage of the United Kingdom. He attended the Emperor's coronation ceremonies at Moscow and then rounded out his diplomatic career by arranging treaties with Denmark and Sweden. When he retired from that service on April 3, 1803, he was granted a pension of £2,300 a year.

Baron Saint Helens was admitted to more intimate friendship with the King and Queen than any other courtier and in May, 1804, he was created Lord of the Bedchamber. From 1805 to 1837, he was a trustee of the British Museum and at the time of his death (February 19, 1839,) he was senior member of the Privy Council.

From the above it will be conceded that the man for whom the mountain was named had an interesting and important career.

EDMOND S. MEANY