



Source: Illustration from 'The Graphic', Vol. 27, No. 687, January 27th, 1883; engraving after watercolour painting (52 x 17.8 cm; 20.5 x 7 inches) by William Lionel Wyllie (1851–1931).

**‘H.M.S. Comus’ at Port Moody: “The Present Terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway”
— September 30th, 1882 — note the C.P.R. dock, freight shed and station house (at left).**

‘**H.M.S. Comus**’ was a single-screw corvette of the ‘Royal Navy’, a transition vessel of her time and the name ship of her class. Launched in April 1878, the vessel was built by Messrs. ‘J. Elder & Co.’ of Glasgow. She was driven by both sails and a reciprocating steam engine; her hull was iron and steel, but sheathed with wood and copper; and some of her muzzle-loading guns were replaced by rifled breech-loaders.

In 1881–82, ‘H.M.S. Comus’ was at the ‘Pellew Islands’ off the north coast of Australia. Later in 1882, ‘H.M.S. Comus’ crossed the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco for a refit in preparation to take the ‘Marquis of Lorne’, Governor General of Canada, and his spouse the Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria, to British Columbia. **The Governor General and Princess Louise visited the ‘Western Terminus’ of the ‘Canadian Pacific Railway’ on September 30th, 1882, and the visit was commemorated by the above illustration.**

William Lionel Wyllie (1851–1931), also known as W. L. Wyllie, was a prolific English painter of maritime themes in both oils and watercolours. He has been described as “the most distinguished marine artist of his day”. His work is in the ‘Tate’, the ‘Royal Academy’, the ‘Imperial War Museum’, the ‘National Maritime Museum’, the ‘National Museum of the Royal Navy’, and many other institutions around the world.