apart from the rest, who continued their merriment, and paid no regard whatever to his movements. To judge from his expression of countenance, I should say he was much grieved; but the next day he was as merry as any of the others. After being a week with these natives, I never saw any flagging in their spirits, for with this exception, all were gay and lively at their work. They are not strong, and have an effeminate look, of which their manners also partake.

The scenery before reaching the lower mouth of the Willamette, is diversified with high and low land, which, together with three lofty snowy peaks, afford many fine views. The country begins to open here, and is much better adapted to agriculture than that lower down.

At Warrior Point we entered the Callepuya, for the purpose of avoiding the current of the river. At this time of the year this branch forms an extensive range of lakes, which reaches to within a mile of Vancouver. The river was now high enough to make it convenient for us to take this route. Shortly after entering the Callepuya, we were obliged to encamp, which we did in rather an inauspicious-looking place; but the bank had not yet absorbed sufficient moisture to make it even wet or damp. Mr. Drayton having shot a pigeon, we had something for supper, otherwise we should have gone without, for we thought when we left Astoria, we should reach Vancouver many hours before we actually did. On the approach to Vancouver, we passed one of the dairies, and some rich meadow-land, on which were grazing herds of fine cattle. We afterwards saw some flocks of sheep of the best English and Spanish breeds.

It becoming necessary to make a short portage within a mile of Vancouver, we concluded to walk thither by the road. In this march we first entered a wood of large pines, which had an undergrowth of various flowering shrubs. The old stumps in the road were overgrown with the red honeysuckle, in full blossom. Lupines and other flowers grow even in the roadway.

We came in at the back part of the village, which consists of about fifty comfortable log houses, placed in regular order on each side of the road. They are inhabited by the Company's servants, and were swarming with children, whites, half-breeds, and pure Indians. The fort stands at some distance beyond the village, and to the eye appears like an upright wall of pickets, twenty-five feet high: this encloses the houses, shops, and magazines of the Company. The enclosure contains about four acres, which appear to be under full cultivation. Beyond the fort, large granaries were to be seen. At one end is Dr. M'Laughlin's house, built after the model of the French Canadian, of

one story, weather-boarded and painted white. It has a piazza and small flower-beds, with grape and other vines, in front. Between the steps are two old cannons on sea-carriages, with a few shot, to speak defiance to the natives, who no doubt look upon them as very formidable weapons of destruction. I mention these, as they are the only warlike instruments to my knowledge that are within the pickets of Vancouver, which differs from all the other forts in having no bastions, galleries, or loop-holes. Near by are the rooms for the clerks and visiters, with the blacksmiths' and coopers' shops. In the centre stands the Roman Catholic chapel, and near by the flag-staff; beyond these again are the stores, magazines of powder, warerooms, and offices.

FORT VANCOUVER.

We went immediately to Dr. M'Laughlin's quarters. He was not within, but we were kindly invited to enter, with the assurance that he would soon return. Only a few minutes elapsed before Dr. M'Laughlin came galloping up, having understood that we had preceded him. He is a tall fine-looking person, of a very robust frame, with a frank manly open countenance, and a florid complexion; his hair is perfectly white. He gave us that kind reception we had been led to expect from his well-known hospitality. He is of Scotch parentage, but by birth, a Canadian, enthusiastic in disposition, possessing great energy of character, and extremely well suited for the situation he occupies, which requires great talent and industry. He at once ordered dinner for us, and we soon felt ourselves at home, having comfortable rooms assigned us, and being treated as part of the establishment.

The situation of Vancouver is favourable for agricultural purposes, and it may be said to be the head of navigation for sea-going vessels. A vessel of fourteen feet draft of water, may reach it in the lowest state of the river. The Columbia at this point makes a considerable angle, and is divided by two islands, which extend upwards about three miles, to where the upper branch of the Willamette joins it.

The shores of these islands are covered with trees, consisting of ash, poplars, pines, and oaks, while the centre is generally prairie, and lower than the banks: they are principally composed of sand. During the rise of the river in May and June, the islands are covered with water, that filters through the banks that are not overflowed. This influx renders them unfit for grain crops, as the coldness of the water invariably destroys every cultivated plant it touches.

The Company's establishment at Vancouver is upon an extensive scale, and is worthy of the vast interest of which it is the centre. The residents mess at several tables: one for the chief factor and his clerks; one for their wives (it being against the regulations of the Company for their officers and wives to take their meals together); another for the missionaries; and another for the sick and the Catholic missionaries. All is arranged in the best order, and I should think with great economy. Every thing may be had within the fort: they have an extensive apothecary shop, a bakery, blacksmiths' and coopers' shops, trade-offices for buying, others for selling, others again for keeping accounts and transacting business; shops for retail, where English manufactured articles may be purchased at as low a price, if not cheaper, than in the United States, consisting of cotton and woollen goods, ready-made clothing, ship-chandlery, earthen and iron ware, and fancy articles; in short, every thing, and of every kind and description, including all sorts of groceries, at an advance of eighty per cent. on the London prime cost. This is the established price at Vancouver, but at the other posts it is one hundred per cent., to cover the extra expenses of transportation. All these articles are of good quality, and suitable for the servants, settlers and visiters. Of the quantity on hand, some idea may be formed from the fact that all the posts west of the Rocky Mountains get their annual supplies from this depôt.

Vancouver is the head-quarters of the Northwest or Columbian Department, which also includes New Caledonia; all the returns of furs are received here, and hither all accounts are transmitted for settlement. These operations occasion a large mass of business to be transacted at this establishment. Mr. Douglass, a chief factor, and the associate of Dr. M'Laughlin, assists in this department, and takes sole charge in his absence.

Dr. M'Laughlin showed us our rooms, and told us that the bell was the signal for meals.

Towards sunset, tea-time arrived, and we obeyed the summons of the bell, when we were introduced to several of the gentlemen of the establishment: we met in a large hall, with a long table spread with

abundance of good fare. Dr. M'Laughlin took the head of the table, with myself on his right, Messrs. Douglass and Drayton on his left, and the others apparently according to their rank. I mention this, as every one appears to have a relative rank, privilege, and station assigned him, and military etiquette prevails. The meal lasts no longer than is necessary to satisfy hunger. With the officers who are clerks, business is the sole object of their life, and one is entirely at a loss here who has nothing to do. Fortunately I found myself much engaged, and therefore it suited me. The agreeable company of Dr. M'Laughlin and Mr. Douglass made the time at meals pass delightfully. Both of these gentlemen were kind enough to give up a large portion of their time to us, and I felt occasionally that we must be trespassing on their business hours. After meals, it is the custom to introduce pipes and tobacco. It was said that this practice was getting into disuse, but I should have concluded from what I saw that it was at its height.

Canadian French is generally spoken to the servants: even those who come out from England after a while adopt it, and it is not a little amusing to hear the words they use, and the manner in which they pronounce them.

The routine of a day at Vancouver is perhaps the same throughout the year. At early dawn the bell is rung for the working parties, who soon after go to work: the sound of the hammers, click of the anvils, the rumbling of the carts, with tinkling of bells, render it difficult to sleep after this hour. The bell rings again at eight, for breakfast; at nine they resume their work, which continues till one; then an hour is allowed for dinner, after which they work till six, when the labours of the day close. At five o'clock on Saturday afternoon the work is stopped, when the servants receive their weekly rations.

Vancouver is a large manufacturing, agricultural, and commercial depôt, and there are few if any idlers, except the sick. Everybody seems to be in a hurry, whilst there appears to be no obvious reason for it.

Without making any inquiries, I heard frequent complaints made of both the quantity and quality of the food issued by the Company to its servants. I could not avoid perceiving that these complaints were well founded, if this allowance were compared with what we deem a sufficient ration in the United States for a labouring man. Many of the servants complained that they had to spend a great part of the money they receive to buy food: this is £17 per annum, out of which they have to furnish themselves with clothes. They are engaged for five years, and after their time has expired the Company are obliged to send them back to England or Canada, if they

desire it. Generally, however, when their time expires they find themselves in debt, and are obliged to serve an extra time to pay it: and not unfrequently, at the expiration of their engagement, they have become attached, or married, to some Indian woman or half-breed, and have children, on which account they find themselves unable to leave, and continue attached to the Company's service, and in all respects under the same engagement as before. If they desire to remain and cultivate land, they are assigned a certain portion, but are still dependent on the Company for many of the necessaries of life, clothing, &c. This causes them to become a sort of vassal, and compels them to execute the will of the Company. In this way, however, order and decorum are preserved, together with steady habits, for few can in any way long withstand this silent influence. The consequence is, that few communities are to be found more well-behaved and orderly than that which is formed of the persons who have retired from the Company's service. That this power, exercised by the officers of the Company, is much complained of, I am aware, but I am satisfied that as far as the morals of the settlers and servants are concerned, it is used for good purposes. For instance, the use of spirits is almost entirely done away with. Dr. M'Laughlin has acted in a highly praiseworthy manner in this particular. Large quantities of spirituous liquors are now stored in the magazines at Vancouver, which the Company have refused to make an article of trade, and none is now used by them in the territory for that purpose. They have found this rule highly beneficial to their business in several respects: more furs are taken, in consequence of those who are engaged having fewer inducements to err; the Indians are found to be less quarrelsome, and pursue the chase more constantly; and the settlers, as far as I could hear, have been uniformly prosperous.

In order to show the course of the Company upon this subject, I will mention one circumstance. The brig Thomas H. Perkins arrived here with a large quantity of rum on board, with other goods. Dr. M'Laughlin, on hearing of this, made overtures immediately for the purchase of the whole cargo, in order to get possession of the whiskey or rum, and succeeded. The Doctor mentioned to me that the liquor was now in store, and would not be sold in the country, and added, that the only object he had in buying the cargo was to prevent the use of the rum, and to sustain the temperance cause.

The settlers are also deterred from crimes, as the Company have the power of sending them to Canada for trial, which is done with little cost, by means of the annual expresses which carry their accounts and books.

The interior of the houses in the fort are unpretending. They are simply finished with pine board panels, without any paint: bunks are built for bedsteads; but the whole, though plain, is as comfortable as could be desired.

I was introduced to several of the missionaries: Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of the American Board of Missions; Mr. and Mrs. Griffith, and Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, of the Self-supporting Mission; Mr. Waller of the Methodist, and two others. They, for the most part, make Vancouver their home, where they are kindly received and well entertained at no expense to themselves. The liberality and freedom from sectarian principles of Dr. M'Laughlin may be estimated from his being thus hospitable to missionaries of so many Protestant denominations, although he is a professed Catholic, and has a priest of the same faith officiating daily at the chapel. Religious toleration is allowed in its fullest extent. The dining-hall is given up on Sunday to the use of the ritual of the Anglican Church, and Mr. Douglass or a missionary reads the service.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith had been in the country two years, and were about leaving it for the Hawaiian Islands, in consequence of the ill health of Mrs. Smith. Mr. Smith informed me that he had been settled on the Kooskooskee, at a station called Kamia. There were no Indians near that station, and consequently little duty for a missionary to perform. All the above-named missions, except the Methodist, came across the Rocky Mountains: they represented the pass through them as by no means difficult, and that they had entertained no apprehension of the hostile Indians. They had accompanied a party of fur-traders from St. Louis, and gave a deplorable account of the dissipation and morals of the party. Messrs. Griffith and Clarke were entirely disappointed in finding self-support here, and had it not been for the kindness of Dr. M'Laughlin, who took them in, they would have suffered much. They were advised to settle themselves on the Faulitz Plains, where I have understood they have since taken land, and succeeded in acquiring quite respectable farms.

There are two large entrance gates to the "fort" for wagons and carts, and one in the rear leading to the granaries and the garden: the latter is quite extensive, occupying four or five acres, and contains all kinds of vegetables and many kinds of fruit, with which the tables are abundantly supplied by the gardener, "Billy Bruce." After William Bruce's first term of service had expired, he was desirous of returning to England, and was accordingly sent. This happened during the visit of Dr. M'Laughlin to England. One day an accidental meeting took place in a crowded street of London, where he

begged Dr. M'Laughlin to send him back to Vancouver. William Bruce was accordingly taken again into employ, and sent back in the next ship. In the mean time, however, he was sent to Chiswick, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire, to get a little more knowledge of his duties, and remained till the vessel sailed; but no place was like Vancouver to him, and all his success here continues to be compared with Chiswick, which he endeavours to surpass: this is alike creditable to both.

Besides the storehouses there is also a granary, which is a frame building of two stories, and the only one, the rest being built of logs.

In addition to these, there are extensive kitchens and apartments for the half-breed and Indian children that the Company have taken to bring up and educate. Of these there are now twenty-three boys and fifteen girls, who claim the particular attention of Dr. M'Laughlin and Mrs. Douglass. A teacher is employed for the boys, who superintends them not only in school, but in the field and garden. During my stay an examination took place, and although the pupils did not prove very expert at their reading and writing, yet we had sufficient evidence that they had made some improvement, and were in a fair way to acquire the rudiments. Some allowance was to be made for the boys, who had been constantly in the field under their teacher for a few months past. Dr. M'Laughlin estimated the labour of four of these small boys as equal to that of a man. It was an interesting sight to see these poor little cast-away fellows, of all shades of colour, from the pure Indian to that of the white, thus snatched away from the vices and idleness of the savage. They all speak both English and French; they are also instructed in religious exercises, in which I thought they appeared more proficient than in their other studies. These they are instructed in on Sunday, on which day they attend divine worship twice. They were a ruddy set of boys, and when at work had a busy appearance: they had planted and raised six hundred bushels of potatoes; and from what Dr. M'Laughlin said to me, fully maintain themselves. The girls are equally well cared for, and are taught by a female, with whom they live and work.

An opinion has gone abroad, I do not know how, that at this post there is a total disregard of morality and religion, and that vice predominates. As far as my observations went, I feel myself obliged to state, that every thing seems to prove the contrary, and to bear testimony that the officers of the Company are exerting themselves to check vice, and encourage morality and religion, in a very marked manner; and that I saw no instance in which vice was tolerated in any degree. I have, indeed, reason to believe, from the discipline and

the example of the superiors, that the whole establishment is a pattern of good order and correct deportment.

This remark not only extends to this establishment, but as far as our opportunities went (and all but two of their posts were visited), the same good order prevails throughout the country. Wherever the operations of the Company extend, they have opened the way to future emigration, provided the means necessary for the success of emigrants, and rendered its peaceful occupation an easy and cheap task.

The mode in which their trade is carried on, will give some idea of the system pursued by the Company. All the imported goods are divided into three classes, viz.: articles of gratuity, those of trade, and those intended to pay for small services, labour, and provisions. The first consists of knives and tobacco; the second, of blankets, guns, cloth, powder, and shot; the third, of shirts, handkerchiefs, ribands, beads, &c. These articles are bartered at seemingly great profits, and many persons imagine that large gain must be the result from the Indian trade; but this is seldom the case. The Indians and settlers understand well the worth of each article, and were not inclined to give for it more than its real value, besides getting a present or "potlatch" to boot. The Company are obliged to make advances to all their trappers, if they wish to be sure of their services; and from such a reckless set, there is little certainty of getting returns, even if the trapper has it in his power. In fact, he will not return with his season's acquisitions, unless he is constrained to pursue the same course of life for another year, when he requires a new advance. In order to avoid losses by the departure of their men, the parties, some thirty or forty in number, are placed under an officer who has charge of the whole. These are allowed to take their wives and even families with them; and places, where they are to trap during the season, on some favourable ground, are assigned to them. These parties leave Vancouver in October, and return by May or June. They usually trap on shares, and the portion they are to receive is defined by an agreement; the conditions of which depend very much upon their skill.

All the profits of the Company depend upon economical management, for the quantity of peltry in this section of the country, and indeed it may be said the fur-trade on this side of the mountains, has fallen off fifty per cent. within the last few years. It is indeed reported, that this business at present is hardly worth pursuing.

Mr. Douglass was kind enough to take me into the granary, which contained wheat, flour, barley, and buckwheat. The wheat averaged sixty-three pounds to the bushel; barley yields twenty bushels to the

acre; buckwheat, in some seasons, gives a good crop, but it is by no means certain, owing to the early frosts; oats do not thrive well; peas, beans, and potatoes yield abundantly; little or no hay is made, the cattle being able to feed all the year round on the natural hay, which they find very nutritious, and fatten upon it. The grass grows up rapidly in the beginning of summer; and the subsequent heat and drought convert it into hay, in which all the juices are preserved. Besides this, they have on the prairies along the river, two luxuriant growths of grass; the first in the spring, and the second soon after the overflowing of the river subsides, which is generally in July and August. The last crop lasts the remainder of the season. Neither do they require shelter, although they are penned in at night. The pens are movable; and the use of them is not only for security against the wolves, but to manure the ground.

The farm at Vancouver is about nine miles square. On this they have two dairies, and milk upwards of one hundred cows. There are also two other dairies, situated on Wapauto Island on the Willamette, where they have one hundred and fifty cows, whose milk is employed, under the direction of imported dairymen, in making butter and cheese for the Russian settlements.

They have likewise a grist and saw mill, both well constructed, about six miles above Vancouver, on the Columbia river.

One afternoon we rode with Mr. Douglass to visit the dairy-farm, which lies to the west of Vancover, on the Callepuya. This was one of the most beautiful rides I had yet taken, through fine prairies, adorned with large oaks, ash, and pines. The large herds of cattle feeding and reposing under the trees, gave an air of civilization to the scene, that is the only thing wanting in the other parts of the territory. The water was quite high; and many of the little knolls were surrounded by it, which had the appearance of small islets breaking the wide expanse of overflowing water.

This dairy is removed every year, which is found advantageous to the ground, and affords the cattle better pasturage. The stock on the Vancouver farm is about three thousand head of cattle, two thousand five hundred sheep, and about three hundred brood mares.

At the dairy, we were regaled with most excellent milk; and found the whole establishment well managed by a Canadian and his wife. They churn in barrel-machines, of which there are several. All the cattle look extremely well, and are rapidly increasing in numbers. The cows give milk at the age of eighteen months. Those of the California breed give a very small quantity of milk; but when crossed with those from the United States and England, do very well. I

saw two or three very fine bulls, that had been imported from England. The sheep have lambs twice a year: those of the California breed yield a very inferior kind of wool, which is inclined to be hairy near the hide, and is much matted. This breed has been crossed with the Leicester, Bakewell, and other breeds, which has much improved it. The fleeces of the mixed breed are very heavy, weighing generally eight pounds, and some as much as twelve. Merinos have been tried, but they are not found to thrive.

The Californian horses are not equal to those raised in Oregon: those bred near Wallawalla are in the most repute.

In one of our rides we visited the site of the first fort at Vancouver: it is less than a mile from the present position, and is just on the brow of the upper prairie. The view from this place is truly beautiful: the noble river can be traced in all its windings, for a long distance through the cultivated prairie, with its groves and clumps of trees; beyond, the eye sweeps over an interminable forest, melting into a blue haze, from which Mount Hood, capped with its eternal snows, rises in great beauty. The tints of purple which appear in the atmosphere, are, so far as I am aware, peculiar to this country. This site was abandoned, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining water, and its distance from the river, which compelled them to transport every article up a high and rugged road. The latter difficulty was encountered in the first location on the upper prairie, because it was said that the lower one was occasionally flooded; but although this may have happened formerly, it is not found to occur at present.

I also visited the grist-mill, which is situated on a small stream, but owing to the height of the river, which threw a quantity of backwater on the wheel, it was not in action. The mill has one run of stones, and is a well-built edifice. Annexed to it is the house of the miller, who is also the watchmaker of the neighbourhood. The mill is amply sufficient for all the wants of the Company, and of the surrounding country. The saw-mill is two miles beyond the grist-mill. A similar mistake has been made in choosing its position, for the mill is placed so low that for the part of the season when they have most water, they are unable to use it. There are in it several runs of saws, and it is remarkably well built. In few buildings, indeed, can such materials be seen as are here used. The quality of timber cut into boards, is inferior to what we should deem merchantable in the United States, and is little better than our hemlock. The boards are shipped to the Sandwich Islands, and we here found the brig Wave taking in a cargo of lumber. These boards sell at Oahu for eighty

dollars per thousand. I could not ascertain their cost here. About twenty men (Canadians and Sandwich Islanders) are employed at the mill.

They have a large smith's shop here, which, besides doing the work of the mill, makes all the axes and hatchets used by the trappers. The iron and steel are imported: the tools are manufactured at a much less price than those imported, and are more to be depended on. A trapper's success, in fact, depends upon his axe; and on this being lost or broken, he necessarily relinquishes his labours, and returns unsuccessful. I was surprised at seeing the celerity with which these axes are made. Fifty of them, it is said, can be manufactured in a day, and twenty-five are accounted an ordinary day's work. They are eagerly sought after by the Indians, who are very particular that the axe should have a certain shape, somewhat like a tomahawk.

From the mill we crossed over to one of the sheep-walks on the high prairie. The soil on this is a light sandy loam, which yields a plentiful crop of columbine, lupine, and cammass-flowers. Throughout these upper prairies, in places, are seen growing pines of gigantic dimensions and towering height, with their branches drooping to the ground, with clumps of oaks, elders, and maple. These prairies have such an air of being artificially kept in order, that they never cease to create surprise, and it is difficult to believe that the hand of taste and refinement has not been at work upon them.

On our way back to Vancouver, we met the droves of horses and cattle that they were driving to the upper prairie, on account of the rise of the river, and the consequent flooding of the low grounds. This was quite an interesting sight. A certain number of brood mares are assigned to each horse; and the latter, it is said, is ever mindful of his troop, and prevents them from straying. An old Indian is employed to watch the horses, who keeps them constant company, and is quite familiar with every individual of his charge. We reached the fort just at sunset, after a ride of twenty miles. It was such a sunset as reminded me of home: the air was mild, and a pleasant breeze prevailed from the west; Mount Hood showed itself in all its glory, rising out of the purple haze with which the landscape was shrouded.

On this night, (29th May,) the waters of the Columbia took a rise of eighteen inches in ten hours, and apprehensions were entertained that the crops on the lower prairie would be destroyed. The usual time for the highest rise of the river is in the middle of June, but the heat of the spring and summer is supposed to have caused its rise sooner this year.

The crop of wheat of the last year had been partially destroyed,

causing a loss of a thousand bushels. Although the Columbia does not overflow its banks any where except in the lower prairie, there are quicksands in these, through which the water, before it reaches the height of the embankment, percolates, and rises on the low parts of the prairie. In consequence of the low temperature of the water, as I have before observed, it chills and destroys the grain.

I witnessed the Columbia at its greatest and least heights, and no idea can be formed of it unless seen at both these epochs. The flood is a very grand sight from the banks of the river at Vancouver, as it passes swiftly by, bearing along the gigantic forest trees, whose immense trunks appear as mere chips. They frequently lodge for a time, in which case others are speedily caught by them, which obstructing the flow of the water, form rapids, until by a sudden rush the whole is borne off to the ocean, and in time lodged by the currents on some remote and savage island, to supply the natives with canoes. I also witnessed the undermining of large trees on the banks, and occasional strips of soil: thus does the river yearly make inroads on its banks, and changes in its channels.

From the circumstance of this annual inundation of the river prairies, they will always be unfit for husbandry, yet they are admirably adapted for grazing, except during the periods of high water. There is no precaution that can prevent the inroad of the water. At Vancouver they were at the expense of throwing up a long embankment of earth, but without the desired effect. It has been found that the crop of grain suffers in proportion to the quantity of the stalk immersed: unless the wheat is completely covered, a partial harvest may be expected.

The temperature of the waters of the Columbia, during the months of May and June, was 42°, while in September it had increased to 68°.

The waters of the Columbia have no fertilizing qualities, which is remarkable when the extent of its course is considered: on the contrary, it is said, from experience, to deteriorate and exhaust the soil. It is, when taken up, quite clear, although it has a turbid look as it flows by. Quantities of fine sand are however borne along, and being deposited in the eddies, rapidly form banks, which alter the channel in places to a great degree.

During my stay at Vancouver, I had a visit from three of a party of eight young Americans, who were desirous of leaving the country, but could not accomplish it in any other way but by building a vessel. They were not dissatisfied with the territory, but they would not settle themselves down in it, because there were no young women to marry, except squaws or half-breeds. They informed me that they were then

engaged in building a vessel on the Oak Islands in the Willamette; where I promised to visit them on my way up the river.

I found them in difficulty with Dr. M'Laughlin, who had refused to furnish them with any more supplies, in consequence, as he stated, of their having obtained those already given them under false pretences.

INDIAN MODE OF ROCKING CRADLE.

# CHAPTER X.

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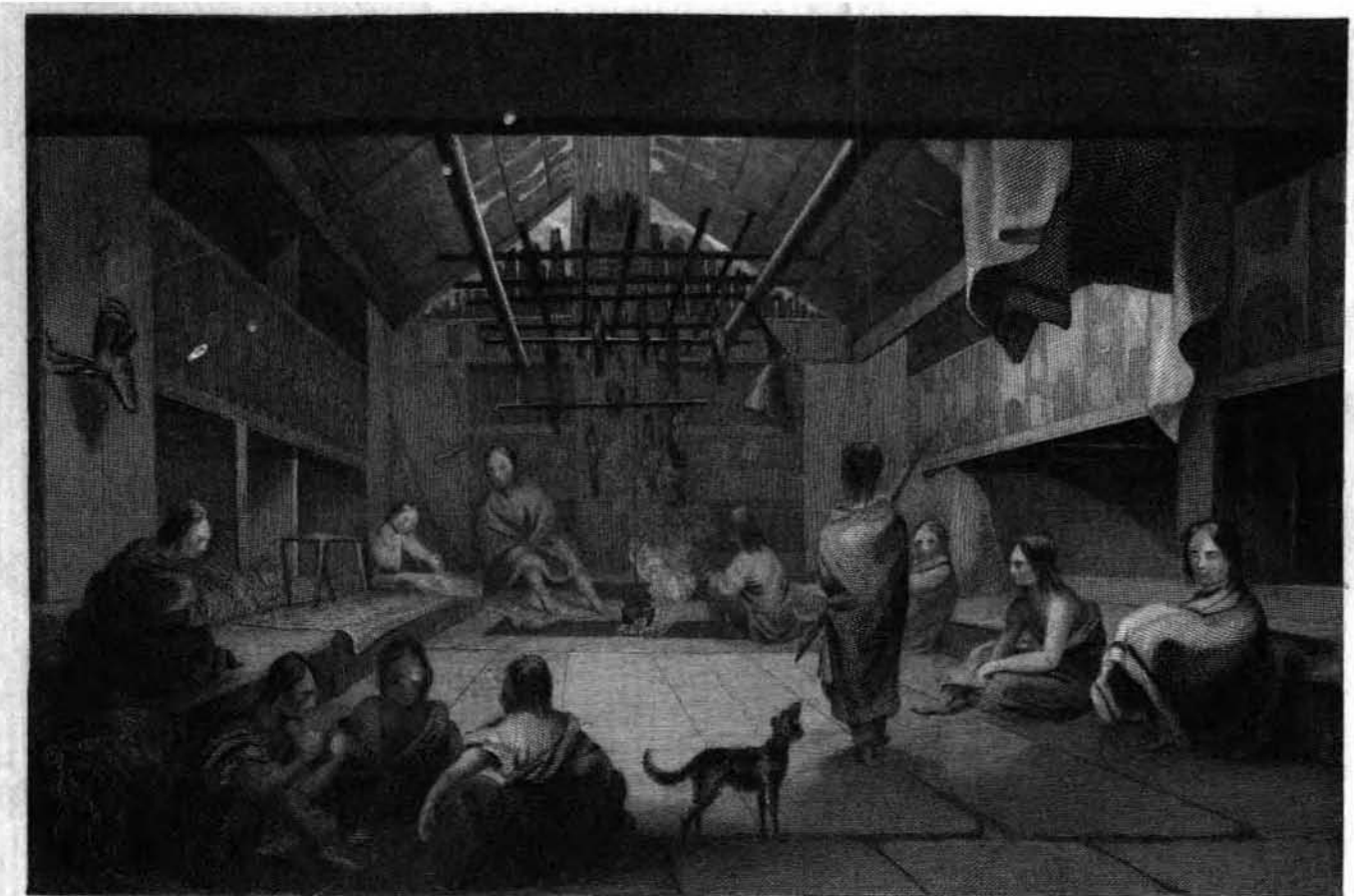

# CHAPTER X.

## WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

### 1841.

On the 3d of June, we had made arrangements for leaving Vancouver, and proceeding up the Willamette; but the weather was so stormy, that we deferred our departure until the following day.

Dr. M'Laughlin had kindly furnished us with a large boat, and, although we had provided ourselves with provisions, we found in her a large basket filled with every thing that travellers could need, or kindness suggest.

The barge in which we embarked was one that usually carried freight; but it had been fitted up with seats for our use, so that we found ourselves extremely comfortable, and our jaunt was much more pleasant than if we had been confined to a small canoe. These flat-bottom boats are capable of carrying three hundred bushels of wheat, and have but a small draft of water; when well manned, they are as fast as the canoes, and are exceedingly well adapted to the navigation of the river: they are also provided with large tarpawlings to protect their cargo from the weather.

From Vancouver we floated down with the current to the upper mouth of the Willamette, which we entered, and before night passed the encampment of the Rev. Jason Lee, principal of the Methodist Mission in Oregon, who was on his way to Clatsop, at the mouth of the Columbia. We stopped with him for an hour. He was accompanied by his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Whitwell, and two or three children. Their encampment was close to the river, and consisted of two small tents. Mr. Lee gave us a warm invitation to visit the settlement on the Willamette, thus forestalling our intentions to do so.

The musquitoes and sand-flies were so annoying, that we were

glad to seek for higher ground to encamp on, for the purpose of escaping them.

The Willamette river is generally about one-fourth of a mile wide. For the distance of four miles from its entrance into the Columbia its banks are low, and during the rise of the latter are overflowed, its waters being backed into the Willamette. There is little current to contend with in this river during this season. After passing this low ground, the banks become high and precipitous, and are in only a few places susceptible of cultivation.

We encamped on the island occupied by the young Americans, of whom I spoke in the preceding chapter, and close to the place where they were building their vessel. The group of which it is one, is called the Oak Islands.

On landing, we were introduced to them all. They had reached the Oregon country by crossing the Rocky Mountains, a year before, and worked on the Willamette, where they first proposed to settle themselves; but they found that that was out of the question, as there was little or no prospect of their being contented, and they were now bent upon leaving the country at all hazards. Every one with whom I spoke gave them a good character, except one, and I found that, shortly after my visit, he had been turned out of the partnership.

The vessel they were building was a small schooner. One of their number having served a short time in a ship-yard in the United States, the rest were employed as his assistants, cutting timber and preparing the plank, which they procured from the cedar on the banks of the river.

I explained to them the cause of Dr. M'Laughlin's refusal to assist them, which they denied most positively. I then told them it was proper for them to deny having authorized any trick or deception, on doing which I was sure they would receive any assistance that lay in the power of Dr. M'Laughlin. This they subsequently did, and I was informed that they then received all the aid he had it in his power to give.

I tried to dissuade these young men from making their voyage; for I found, on conversing with them, that not one of them knew any thing about the sailing of a vessel or navigation. I therefore knew how great dangers they would experience on the voyage even to California, whither they intended to go, with the intention of taking sea-otter by the way on the coast of Oregon. After their arrival at San Francisco it was their plan to sell their vessel and cargo, if they were fortunate enough to obtain any, or if not, to go down the coast further,

when they would cross over the country, and return by the way of Mexico or Texas.

It gave me much pleasure to see the buoyancy of spirit, so truly characteristic of our countrymen, with which they carried on their plan.

Before I left the Columbia in September, they asked me for a sea-letter for their protection; at the same time informing me that their vessel was launched, met their expectations, and was called the "Star of Oregon."

The grove of oak on this island was beautiful, forming an extensive wood, with no undergrowth. The species that grows here is a white-oak, of very close grain. Its specific gravity is much greater than water; and it is used for the purposes to which we apply both oak and hickory. It makes excellent hoops for casks, and is the only timber of this region that is considered durable.

The next morning, I left the boat-builders, after assuring them that they should have all the assistance I could give them in their outfit.

After we had embarked, we were told by our guide, Plumondon, that he had with him saddles and bridles, and orders for horses, &c., in order that we might meet with no delay or inconvenience in our trip up the Willamette. I felt these kind attentions and the manner they were bestowed; and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge how much we were benefited by them.

Early on the morning of the 5th, we set out for the falls of the Willamette. As they are approached, the river becomes much narrower; and the banks, which are of trap rock, more precipitous. This river is navigable for small vessels, even at its lowest stage, as high as the mouth of the Klackamus, three miles below its falls. In the low state of the river, there is a rapid at the Klackamus.

We reached the falls about noon, where we found the missionary station under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Waller. The Hudson Bay Company have a trading-post here, and are packing fish, which the Indians catch in great quantities. This is said to be one of the best salmon-fisheries on the river.

There was a petty dispute between Mr. Waller and the Company, and he complained of them. It seems that the Company refuse to buy any beaver-skins, except from the hunters and trappers; and he accuses them of monopoly in consequence. The Company, on the other hand, say that they have no idea of selling goods out of their own stores, for the purpose of enabling others to enter into competition with them; and that they will spare no expense to keep the trade, as long as they can, in their own hands. This is certainly not unfair. I cannot help feeling

it is quite unsuited to the life of a missionary, to be entering into trade of any kind. To embark in traffic must, I think, tend to destroy the usefulness of a missionary, or divert his attention from the great cause in which he is engaged. I am very far from attaching any blame on this account to the missionaries, whose avowed object is to teach the arts of civilization, as well as the Word of God, and I have no doubt that they are doing all in their power to promote the latter object; but I am disposed to think, that any complaints against the Hudson Bay Company for endeavouring to keep the trade in their own hands, comes with an ill grace from the members of a mission who are daily receiving the kindest attentions and hospitality from its officers.

Mr. Waller and his wife gave us a kind welcome, and insisted upon our taking dinner with them. As they have no servants, Mrs. Waller prepared the dinner, while Mr. Waller took care of the out-door business. Though the house was built of rough materials, it was very evident that neatness and order prevailed. Her management of the home-made cooking-stove which stood in the room, claimed my admiration. At the same time she made herself quite agreeable; and although she had many, very many things to contend with, appeared quite satisfied with her lot and condition.

After we had partaken of our dinner, consisting of salmon and tea, with bread and butter, Mr. Waller took us to see the falls. On our way thither, he pointed out a log house that had been built by the agent of Mr. Slacum, in order to secure the right of site or mill-privileges. The Hudson Bay Company have gone to considerable expense in blasting the rock for a mill-race for the same purpose; but from appearances, this work has remained untouched for several years.

The falls of Willamette are about twenty feet in height, and probably offer the best mill-sites of any place in the neighbouring country. Being at the head of navigation for sea-vessels, and near the great wheat-growing valley of the Willamette, it must be a place of great resort. A Mr. Moore, from the Western States, whom I saw on the Willamette, informed me that he had taken possession of the west side of the falls, under a purchase from an old Indian chief. Whether such titles will be recognised by the government, is already a matter of speculation in the country; and there is much talk of pre-emption rights, &c.

At the time of our visit to the falls, the salmon-fishery was at its height, and was to us a novel as well as an amusing scene. The salmon leap the fall; and it would be inconceivable, if not actually witnessed, how they can force themselves up, and after a leap of from ten to twelve feet retain strength enough to stem the force of the water above. About one in ten of those who jumped, would succeed in

getting by. They are seen to dart out of the foam beneath and reach about two-thirds of the height, at a single bound: those that thus passed the apex of the running water, succeed; but all that fell short, were thrown back again into the foam. I never saw so many fish collected together before; and the Indians are constantly employed in taking them. They rig out two stout poles, long enough to project over the foaming cauldron, and secure their larger ends to the rocks. On the outer end they make a platform for the fisherman to stand on, who is perched on it with a pole thirty feet long in hand, to which the net is fastened by a hoop four feet in diameter: the net is made to slide on the hoop, so as to close its mouth when the fish is taken. The mode of using the net is peculiar: they throw it into the foam as far up the stream as they can reach, and it being then quickly carried down, the fish who are running up in a contrary direction, are caught. Sometimes twenty large fish are taken by a single person in an hour; and it is only surprising that twice as many should not be caught.

WILLAMETTE FALLS.

The river at the falls is three hundred and fifty yards wide, and its greatest fall twenty-five feet. When the water is not very high, the rapids begin some distance above the falls. Some of the Indians are in the habit of coming down in canoes to the brink of the falls, where they secure themselves by thrusting down poles in the crevices of the

rock. There they take many fish, that have succeeded in passing the lower fall, with a hook fastened to the end of a pole. These are esteemed to be of the best flavour, as they are the strongest and fattest. It is said from these places the fish can be seen very distinctly passing up, and are taken very rapidly; but few Indians are willing or expose themselves to the risk of fishing there. The number of Indians at the Willamette Falls during the fishing season, is about seventy, including all ages and sexes: there are others who visit the falls in canoes for fish, which at times will raise the number to not far from one hundred. Those fish which are unable to get up, remain some time at the falls, very much exhausted, and finally resort to the smaller streams below. Mr. Drayton's sketch of the scene is given in the vignette.

The rocks here change their character within a few miles. Much volcanic scoria, vesicular lava, and pudding-stone, intermingled with blocks of trap, and many crystals of quartz, occur. My attention was called to this particularly by old Mr. Moore, who had set up his claims to the west side of the falls, communicating to me in confidence that he intended to erect furnaces for smelting iron, &c. Although I saw the old man some time afterwards, and told him of his mistake, he would not believe that he had been in error. On the rocks are to be seen large knots of lamprey eels, worming themselves up, which make them look at a little distance as if alive with snakes.

After spending some time at the falls, we returned to the house, and thence passed over to the west side of the river in a boat. Plumondon informed us that all our baggage had been transported over the portage, which is about a third of a mile in length.

On landing, we passed through an Indian village, which was absolutely swarming with fleas; a filthier place cannot be found in Oregon. Before we reached our boat, a heavy shower of rain overtook us, and gave us a good drenching; we, however, embarked for Camp Maude du Sable. We now found our progress very different from what we had made below the falls: the current was strong, and we made but little headway; our boatmen being intent upon taking advantage of the smallest eddies, we were continually crossing and recrossing the river for this purpose. The banks had become much higher and more picturesque. This part of the river is considered dangerous when the water is high, and accidents frequently occur; for this reason, the Indians in passing are still in the habit of making a propitiatory offering of some of their food, such as dried salmon or peas, in order that they may have a safe passage by. Before night we encamped just above

the Stony Islands, on a barren point of land, at some height above the river, where we found several mosses in flower, which we had not met with before.

At this season of the year, the river is not high: its rise usually takes place in February and March, when it becomes very much swollen, and with its tributaries does much damage. These floods, however, are of very short duration, for the descent is so rapid that the waters are soon discharged. It was raining quite hard when we passed Camp Maude du Sable, a sandy point just at the opening out of the Willamette Valley, which was one of the points originally occupied when the river was first explored by the whites. About two miles further up the river is Champooing, eighteen miles above the falls, which we reached at about 4 P. M. Here we found a few log houses, one of which belonged to a Mr. Johnson, who gave us a hearty welcome. Mr. Johnson was formerly a trapper in the Hudson Bay Company's service, but has begun to farm here. He invited us to take up our quarters with him, and although they were not very pleasant in appearance, we thought it better to accept the invitation than to pitch our tents on the wet ground in the rain. To reach his dwelling, we passed through water over our shoes. The house had little the appearance of belonging to a white man, but his welcome made amends for many things. We were soon installed in his bedroom, where, in looking round, my eye was arrested by a print of the capture of the frigate Guerriere by the Constitution, which led me to speak concerning it, when I found he had been in that action. This at once made us old friends, for I found him familiar with the character of all our naval men, and I had much pleasure in listening to his anecdotes, and hearing him speak in high terms of many of those officers to whom I feel personally attached. It was delightful to hear his unvarnished account of Commodore Hull's coolness and conduct in the action. Johnson asked many questions about the young officers he had known. I was equally diverted with his own adventures. Finding, after the excitement of war was over, he could not be content to lead a quiet life, he determined to adopt the business of trapping. In this he was engaged until the last few years, when he had settled himself down here, and taken an Indian girl for his wife, by whom he had several children. To the latter he said he was desirous of giving a good education, and for this purpose he had engaged old Mr. Moore, from Illinois, to pass several months with him. Johnson had all the easy and independent character of a trapper; yet I could still perceive that he had hanging about him somewhat of the feeling of discipline that he had acquired in the service. His Indian wife is extremely

useful in making every thing, besides taking care of the household concerns, and is rather pretty. Johnson's estimate of her was that she was worth "half a dozen civilized wives." There is little cleanliness, however, about his house, and many of the duties are left to two young male slaves, of Indian blood, but of what tribe I did not learn. Johnson's farm consists of about forty acres under cultivation: his wheat and potatoes were flourishing, and he had a tolerable kitchen-garden. He has some little stock, but complained much of the Oregon tiger, or American panther. These voracious animals are numerous and bold: the night before we arrived, they had entered the pen and killed a calf, regardless of the dogs; and an alarm was given on the night of our stay, when all the guns were in requisition, and noise enough was made in getting ready, to scare away dozens of them.

We were informed that there are plenty of elk, and deer, and that the grizzly bear is also common. The flesh of the latter animal is very much esteemed. Wild ducks and geese are quite numerous in the spring and fall, covering the rivers, lakes, and ponds.

There are four houses and three lodges in sight of Johnson's farm, whence all the neighbours called to see us. They were just the sort of men one would expect to see in such a place. One was an old man by the name of Cannon, who had been one of the party with Lewis and Clarke, and was from his own account the only remaining one in the country. He likes the country, and says he thinks there is no necessity for Dr. M'Laughlin's authority or laws to govern it.

Old Moore had some shrewdness, and was exceedingly talkative; he possessed much information in relation to the country he had passed through, which I found to correspond to what I have since received from other sources. He had crossed the mountains the year before, and found no difficulty in making the trip. He intends to return and bring out his family, being of opinion that the country is a fine one, and exceedingly healthy, and that it will compare well with the lands of Missouri and Illinois. The great objection to the upper country, on the route by which we travelled, was the want of wood.

Another of these men was named George Gay, of whom I shall speak hereafter.

We found this, as I said before, a dirty house: the people were idle and fond of lounging, and all I have yet seen are uncombed and unshaved.

These people were quite alive on the subject of laws, courts, and magistrates, including governors, judges, &c. I was here informed that a committee had been appointed to wait upon me on my arrival

at the mission, to hold a consultation relative to the establishment of settled governments. Johnson, trapper-like, took what I thought the soundest view, saying that they yet lived in the bush, and let all do right, there was no necessity for laws, lawyers, or magistrates.

Having our camp equipage with us, together with plenty of provisions, our servant managed without putting him or his wife to much inconvenience; and although we passed an uncomfortable night, fighting with the fleas, yet we both agreed it was better than if we had been in our tents.

In the morning we found horses waiting, under charge of Michel La Framboise, who is in the employ of the Company, and was very happy to see us. He originally came out in the ship Tonquin, and was one of the party that landed at Astoria, where he has resided ever since, either in the employ of the Northwest or Hudson Bay Company. Michel is of low stature, and rather corpulent, but he has great energy and activity of both mind and body, indomitable courage, and all the vivacity of a Frenchman. He has travelled in all parts of the country, and says that he has a wife of high rank in every tribe, by which means he has insured his safety. From him I derived much information, and to him all parties refer as possessing the most accurate knowledge of the country. He generally has charge of a party, and was formerly engaged in trapping; but of late years passing through the country to California and back. Had it not been for his proneness to dissipation, I am informed he would have risen in the Company's service. To me he complained that he had not received what he considered his due, and that he was no better off than twenty years before, saying, "he was still Michel La Framboise, only older."

I was glad to meet with a guide of such intelligence; and having mounted our horses, we rode through the Willamette Valley. In it we passed many small farms, of from fifty to one hundred acres, belonging to the old servants of the Company, Canadians, who have settled here: they all appear very comfortable and thriving. We stopped for a few hours at the Catholic Mission, twelve miles from Champooing, to call upon the Rev. Mr. Bachelét, to whom I had a note of introduction, from Dr. M'Laughlin, and who received me with great kindness. Mr. Bachelét is here settled among his flock, and is doing great good to the settlers in ministering to their temporal as well as spiritual wants.

He spoke to me much about the system of laws the minority of the settlers were desirous of establishing, but which he had objected to, and advised his people to refuse to co-operate in; for he was of opinion

that the number of settlers in the Willamette Valley would not warrant the establishment of a constitution, and as far as his people were concerned there was certainly no necessity for one, nor had he any knowledge of crime having been yet committed.

Annexed to Mr. Bachelét's house is a small chapel, fully capable of containing the present congregation.

They are erecting a large and comfortable house for Mr. Bachelét, after which it is intended to extend the chapel. These houses are situated on the borders of an extensive level prairie, which is very fertile, having a rich deep alluvial soil; they also have near them a forest of pine, oak, &c. They are now occupied in turning up the fields for the first time. Mr. Bachelét informed me that it was intended to take enough of land under cultivation to supply a large community, that will be attached to the mission; for it is the intention to establish schools here, for the instruction of the Indians as well as the Canadians and other settlers. He has already ten Indian children under his care. Mr. Bachelét informed me that the mission had been established about a year, and that it had already done much good. When he first arrived all the settlers were living with Indian women, whom they have since married, and thus legalized the connexion. This was the first step he had taken towards their moral improvement, and he had found it very successful. There were about thirty Canadian families settled here, besides about twenty persons who have no fixed residence, and are labourers. The number of Indians is estimated at between four and five hundred, including all tribes, sexes, and ages. The district under Mr. Bachelét's superintendence takes in about fifty square miles, including the Willamette Valley, Faulitz, and Yam-Hill Plains, and extending below the Willamette Falls as far as the Klackamus river. The number of white residents, including the missionaries of both denominations, is thought to be about sixty.

Mr. Drayton, Michel, and myself, dined with Mr. Bachelét, on oatmeal porridge, venison, strawberries, and cream. This hospitality was tendered with good and kind feelings, and with a gentlemanly deportment that spoke much in his favour, and made us regret to leave his company so soon.

When we reached Michel's house, he left us, finding there was no further need for his services, as we were now accompanied by Plumondon, Johnson, George Gay, and one or two other guides, with horses.

We soon after came to some American and English settlers, and then entered on the grounds of the Methodist Mission. One of the

first sights that caught my eye was a patent threshing machine in the middle of the road, that seemed to have been there for a length of time totally neglected.

We rode on to the log houses which the Messrs. Lee built when they first settled here. In the neighbourhood are the wheelright's and blacksmith's, together with their work-shops, belonging to the mission, and, about a mile to the east, the hospital, built by Dr. White, who was formerly attached to this mission. I was informed by many of the settlers that this gentleman had rendered very essential service to this district. His connexion with the mission was dissolved when he returned to the United States.*

The hospital is now used for dwellings by some of the missionaries. It is, perhaps, the best building in Oregon, and accommodates at present four families: it is a well-built frame edifice, with a double piazza in front. Mr. Abernethy and his wife entertained us kindly. He is the secular agent of the mission. Order and neatness prevail in their nice apartments, where they made us very comfortable, and gave us such hospitality as we should receive at home. It seemed an out-of-the-way place to find persons of delicate habits, struggling with difficulties such as they have to encounter, and overcoming them with cheerfulness and good temper.

Near the hospital are two other houses, built of logs, in one of which Dr. Babcock, the physician of the mission, lives.

We paid Dr. Babcock a visit in the evening, and found him comfortably lodged. He stated to me that the country was healthy, although during the months of August and September, they were subject to fever and ague on the low grounds, but in high and dry situations he believed they would be free from it. A few other diseases existed, but they were of a mild character, and readily yielded to simple remedies. He is also of opinion that the fever and ague becomes milder each season, as the individuals become acclimated.

The lands of the Methodist Mission are situated on the banks of the Willamette river, on a rich plain adjacent to fine forests of oak and pine. They are about eight miles beyond the Catholic Mission, consequently eighteen miles from Champooing, in a southern direction. Their fields are well enclosed, and we passed a large one of wheat, which we understood was self-sown by the last year's crop, which had been lost through neglect. The crop so lost amounted to nearly a thousand bushels, and it is supposed that this year's crop will yield twenty-five bushels to the acre. About all the premises of this mission

* Dr. White has since returned to Oregon, in the capacity of Indian Agent.

there was an evident want of the attention required to keep things in repair, and an absence of neatness that I regretted much to witness. We had the expectation of getting a sight of the Indians on whom they were inculcating good habits and teaching the word of God; but with the exception of four Indian servants, we saw none since leaving the Catholic Mission. On inquiring, I was informed that they had a school of twenty pupils, some ten miles distant, at the mill; that there were but few adult Indians in the neighbourhood; and that their intention and principal hope was to establish a colony, and by their example to induce the white settlers to locate near those over whom they trusted to exercise a moral and religious influence.

A committee of five, principally lay members of the mission, waited upon me to consult and ask my advice relative to the establishment of laws, &c. After hearing attentively all their arguments and reasons for this change, I could see none sufficiently strong to induce the step. No crime appears yet to have been committed, and the persons and property of settlers are secure. Their principal reasons appear to me to be, that it would give them more importance in the eyes of others at a distance, and induce settlers to flock in, thereby raising the value of their farms and stock. I could not view this subject in such a light, and differed with them entirely as to the necessity or policy of adopting the change.

1st. On account of their want of right, as those wishing for laws were, in fact, a small minority of the settlers.

2d. That these were not yet necessary even by their own account.

3d. That any laws they might establish would be a poor substitute for the moral code they all now followed, and that evil-doers would not be disposed to settle near a community entirely opposed to their practices.

4th. The great difficulty they would have in enforcing any laws, and defining the limits over which they had control, and the discord this might occasion in their small community.

5th. They not being the majority, and the larger part of the population being Catholics, the latter would elect officers of their party, and they would thus place themselves entirely under the control of others.

6th. The unfavourable impressions it would produce at home, from the belief that the missions had admitted that in a community brought together by themselves they had not enough of moral force to control it and prevent crime, and therefore must have recourse to a criminal code.

From my own observation and the information I had obtained, I was well satisfied that laws were not needed, and were not desired

by the Catholic portion of the settlers. I therefore could not avoid drawing their attention to the fact, that after all the various officers they proposed making were appointed, there would be no subjects for the law to deal with. I further advised them to wait until the government of the United States should throw its mantle over them. These views, I was afterwards told, determined a postponement of their intentions.

Dr. Babcock and others, myself and officers, were tendered an invitation from the American settlers of the Willamette, to partake of a 4th of July dinner with them, which I was obliged to decline, on account of the various duties that pressed upon us.

The next day the gentlemen of the mission proposed a ride to what they term "the Mill," distant about nine miles, in a southeast direction.

We passed, in going thither, several fine prairies, both high and low. The soil on the higher is of a gravelly or light nature, while on the lower it is a dark loam, intermixed with a bluish clay. The prairies are at least one-third greater in extent than the forest: they were again seen carpeted with the most luxuriant growth of flowers, of the richest tints of red, yellow, and blue, extending in places a distance of fifteen to twenty miles.

The timber we saw consisted of the live and white oak, cedar, pine, and fir.

We reached "the Mill" by noon, which consists of a small grist and saw mill on the borders of an extensive prairie. They are both under the same roof, and are worked by a horizontal wheel. The grist-mill will not grind more than ten bushels a day; and during the whole summer both mills are idle, for want of water, the stream on which they are situated being a very small one, emptying into the Willamette. We found here two good log houses, and about twenty lay members, mechanics, of the mission under Mr. Raymond, who is the principal at the mills. There are, besides, about twenty-five Indian boys, who, I was told, were not in a condition to be visited or inspected. Those whom I saw were nearly grown up, ragged and half-clothed, lounging about under the trees. Their appearance was any thing but pleasing and satisfactory; and I must own I was greatly disappointed, for I had been led to expect that order and neatness at least would have been found among them, considering the strong force of missionaries engaged here.

From the number of persons about the premises, this little spot had the air and stir of a new secular settlement; and I understood that it is intended to be the permanent location of the mission, being considered more healthy than the bank of the Willamette. The

missionaries, as they told me, have made individual selections of lands to the amount of one thousand acres each, in prospect of the whole country falling under our laws.

We received an invitation from Mr. Raymond to take dinner, which we accepted; previous to which, I rode about two miles, to the situation selected by the Rev. Mr. Hines, in company with that gentleman. On our way, he pointed out to me the site selected for the seminary, &c. We found Mr. Hines's family encamped under some oak trees, in a beautiful prairie, to which place he had but just removed; he intended putting up his house at once, and they had the ordinary comforts about them. We returned, and found the table well spread with good things, consisting of salmon, pork, potted cheese, strawberries and cream, and nice hot cakes, and an ample supply for the large company.

We were extremely desirous of obtaining information relative to the future plans of these missionaries as to teaching and otherwise forwarding the civilization of the Indian boys; but from all that we could learn from the missionaries, as well as lay members, my impression was, that no fixed plan of operations has yet been digested; and I was somewhat surprised to hear them talking of putting up extensive buildings for missionary purposes, when it is fully apparent that there is but a very limited field for spiritual operations in this part of the country. The number now attached and under tuition are probably all that can be converted, and it does not exceed the number of those attached to the mission. I was exceedingly desirous of drawing their attention to the tribes of the north, which are a much more numerous and hardier race, with a healthy climate. It is true that a mission station has been established at Nisqually, but they are doing nothing with the native tribes, and that post is only on the borders of many larger tribes to the northward. As the holders of a charge, committed to their hands by a persevering and enlightened class of Christians at home, who are greatly interested in their doings and actions, they will be held responsible for any neglect in the great cause they have undertaken to advance, and in which much time and money have already been spent.

That all may judge of the extent of this field of missionary labours, I will enumerate the numbers of Indians within its limits. Nisqually, two hundred; Clatsop, two hundred and nine; Chinooks, two hundred and twenty; Kilamukes, four hundred; Callapuyas, six hundred; Dalles, two hundred and fifty: say in all this district, two thousand Indians; and this field is in part occupied by the Catholics, as I have before stated. Of these, the Methodist missionaries have under their

instruction, if so it may be called, twenty-five at the Willamette station; at the Dalles, and occasionally on the Klackamus river, are the only places where divine service is attempted. I would not have it understood that by these remarks I have any desire to throw blame on those who direct or are concerned in this missionary enterprise, or to make any imputations on the labourers; but I feel it a duty I owe my countrymen, to lay the truth before them, such as we saw it. I am aware that the missionaries come out to this country to colonize, and with the Christian religion as their guide and law, to give the necessary instruction, and hold out inducements to the Indians to quit their wandering habits, settle, and become cultivators of the soil. This object has not been yet attained in any degree, as was admitted by the missionaries themselves; and how it is to be effected without having constantly around them large numbers, and without exertions and strenuous efforts, I am at a loss to conceive. I cannot but believe, that the same labour and money which have been expended here, would have been much more appropriately and usefully spent among the tribes about the Straits of Juan de Fuca, who are numerous, and fit objects for instruction.

At the Rev. Mr. Hines's I had another long conversation relative to the laws, &c. The only instance (which speaks volumes for the good order of the settlers), of any sort of crime being committed since the foundation of the settlement, was the stealing of a horse; and a settler who had been detected stealing his neighbour's pigs, by enticing them to his house, dropping them into his cellar, where they were slaughtered and afterwards eaten. The theft was discovered by the numbers of bones frequently found around his premises. He was brought to a confession, and compelled to pay the value of the stolen hogs, simply by the force of public opinion.

We took leave of Mr. Raymond and his party, wishing them success in their labours, and rode back over the fine prairies at a full gallop, in the direction that seemed most convenient to save us distance. We stopped for a short time to take leave of Mr. and Mrs. Abernethy, and then passed to the site of the old mission on the banks of the Willamette. The river here makes a considerable bend, and has undermined and carried away its banks to some extent: a short distance beyond, it is making rapid inroads into the rich soil of these bottom lands. The log houses have the character that all old log houses acquire, and I was warned, if I desired to pass a comfortable night, to avoid them.

This is the usual place of crossing the river, which is too deep to be forded, and about two hundred yards wide. Its banks were twenty feet high, and composed of stratified layers of alluvium. On the shore

of the river, which consists of a shingle beach some two hundred feet wide, are to be found cornelians, agates, and chalcedony, among the loose pieces of basalt of which it is composed. The current was found to run at the rate of three miles an hour, although the water was said to be low. An old canoe was procured, in which we passed over, while one of the horses was led, and swam by its side: the rest were driven into the water, and followed to the opposite side. Here we met George Gay, who was travelling with his Indian wife: he told us that he would join us on our trip to the Yam Hills, which we proposed to make the next day.

We found our camp established by Plumondon, near the residence of Mr. O'Neill, formerly the property of the Rev. Mr. Leslie: it lies about a mile from the river, in a pretty, oval prairie, containing about three or four hundred acres, with a fine wood encircling it. Sixty of these are under cultivation; about forty in wheat, that was growing luxuriantly.

Three years since, O'Neill came to the valley with only a shirt to his back, as he expressed it: he began by working part of this farm, and obtained the loan of cattle and other articles from Dr. M'Laughlin, all of which he has, from the natural increase of his stock and out of his crops, since repaid. He has bought the farm, has two hundred head of stock, horses to ride on, and a good suit of clothes, all earned by his own industry; and he says it is only necessary for him to work one month in the year to make a living: the rest of the time he may amuse himself. He spoke in the highest terms of Dr. M'Laughlin, and the generous aid he had afforded him in the beginning. This farm is the best we have seen, in every respect; and it is not only well arranged, but has many advantages from its location. The success of O'Neill is a proof of what good education and industrious habits will do, and it is pleasing to see the happiness and consideration they produce. Mr. O'Neill is also a mechanic, and has gained much of his wealth in that way: he ploughs and reaps himself, and is assisted by a few Indians, whom he has the tact to manage. He has a neat kitchen-garden, and every thing that a person in his situation can desire.

The Rev. Mr. Leslie, who lives with O'Neill, invited us to the hospitality of his roof, but we preferred our camp to putting him to any inconvenience.

The next day (9th of June) we started for the Yam Hills, which divide the valleys of the Willamette and Faulitz. They are of but moderate elevation: the tops are easily reached on horseback, and every part of them which I saw was deemed susceptible of cultivation. The soil is a reddish clay, and bears few marks of any wash from the

rains. These hills are clothed to the very top with grass, and afford excellent pasturage for cattle, of which many were seen feeding on them. On our route through the Yam Hills, we passed many settlers' establishments. From their top, the view is not unlike that from Mount Holyoke, in Massachusetts, and the country appears as if it were as much improved by the hand of civilization. The oak trees sprinkled over the hills and bottoms have a strong resemblance to the apple-orchards. The extent of country we looked over is from twenty-five to thirty miles, all of which is capable of being brought to the highest state of cultivation. There are in truth few districts like that of the valley of the Faulitz.

We passed one or two brick-kilns, and finally reached the new residence of George Gay, one of the most remote on this side of the river. George had reached home with his wife and two children not long before us. His dwelling was to all appearance a good shanty, which contains all his valuables. George is of that lazy kind of lounging figure so peculiar to a backwoodsman or Indian. He has a pretty and useful Indian wife, who does his bidding, takes care of his children and horses, and guards his household and property. The latter is not bulky, for superfluities with George are not to be found, and when he and his wife and children are seen travelling, it is manifest that his all is with him. George is a useful member of society in this small community: he gelds and marks cattle, breaks horses in, and tames cows for milking, assists in finding and driving cattle,—in short, he undertakes all and every sort of singular business; few things are deemed by him impossibilities; and lastly, in the words of one of the settlers, "George is not a man to be trifled or fooled with." I felt, when I had him for my guide, that there were few difficulties he could not overcome. He is full as much of an Indian in habits as a white man can be. He told me he bore the Indians no love, and is indeed a terror to them, having not unfrequently applied Lynch law to some of them with much effect. The account he gave of himself is, that he was born of English parents, but became, before he had grown up, more than half Indian, and was now fully their match. I will add, that he is quite equal to them in artifice. He passes for the best lasso-thrower in the country, and is always ready to eat, sleep, or frolic: his wife and children are to him as his trappings. He has with all this many good points about him. I have seen him, while travelling with me, dart off for half a mile to assist a poor Indian boy who was unable to catch his horse, lasso the horse, put the boy on, and return at full gallop. All this was done in a way that showed it to be his every-day practice; and

his general character throughout the settlement is, that George is ever ready to help those in trouble.

On our return towards the road, we passed the farm of one of Dr. M'Laughlin's sons, who has settled here, and has an extensive portion of the prairie fenced in. This part of Willamette Valley is a prolonged level, of miles in extent, circumscribed by the woods, which have the appearance of being attended to and kept free from undergrowth. This is difficult to account for, except through the agency of fire destroying the seeds. The Indians are in the habit of burning the country yearly, in September, for the purpose of drying and procuring the seeds of the sunflower, which they are thus enabled to gather with more ease, and which form a large portion of their food. That this is the case appears more probable from the fact that since the whites have had possession of the country, the undergrowth is coming up rapidly in places.

In passing through the Willamette, I had a good opportunity of contrasting the settlers of different countries; and, while those of French descent appeared the most contented, happy, and comfortable, those of the Anglo-Saxon race showed more of the appearance of business, and the "go-ahead" principle so much in vogue at home.

The most perfect picture of content I saw was a French Canadian by the name of La Bonte, on the Yam Hill river, who had been a long time in the service of the Hudson Bay Company. This man was very attentive to us, and assisted in getting our horses across the river, which, though but a few rods wide, is yet deep and attended with much difficulty in passing.

The sudden rises of this river are somewhat remarkable and difficult to be accounted for, as there does not appear from the face of the country to be much ground drained by it. The perpendicular height of the flood is, at times, as much as thirty feet, which was marked very distinctly on the trees growing on its banks.

Having heard that the farm of the late Mr. Young was the most beautiful spot in this section of the country, I determined to visit it, and for this purpose crossed the Yam Hills again. When we reached the top, we again had a view of the Faulitz Plains, which were highly picturesque. The hills here were covered, as we had found them before, with wall-flowers, lupines, scilla, and quantities of ripe strawberries. Mr. Young's farm is situated in a valley, running east and west, which seems to unite that of Willamette and Faulitz. The situation did not meet my high-raised expectations, though it is fine. Mr. Young was one of the first pioneers and settlers in this country and met with much difficulty. At one time he was desirous of esta-

blishing a distillery, but through the influence of Mr. Slacum, who was on a visit to Oregon as an agent of our government, he relinquished the idea, notwithstanding he had already incurred considerable expense.

Mr. Young was, at the time, of opinion that unless they had cattle, to which he believed the country was well adapted, they never could succeed in creating a successful settlement, and it was necessary to go to considerable expense to obtain them from California, as the Hudson Bay Company, or rather the Puget Sound Company, would not part with any. Mr. Slacum generously offered to advance the money necessary, and to give as many Americans as desired it, a free passage to San Francisco, in California, there to purchase stock and to drive them through to the Willamette. This was accordingly done, and after many difficulties, the cattle reached the Willamette in 1839. Mr. Young took charge of the share of Mr. Slacum, which then amounted to twenty-three. Previous to our arrival on the Northwest Coast, we heard from the United States of the death of Mr. Slacum, and on our arrival there that of Mr. Young was also made known to me. The funds and property of Mr. Young, by general consent of the settlers, were put into the hands of the Rev. Mr. Leslie, who acted as administrator, and informed me that at the division of Mr. Young's cattle, eighty-six had been put aside as the share of Mr. Slacum, after the proportion of loss and accidents had been deducted, making the increase in four years, sixty-three. Of these cattle no other care had ever been taken than to drive them into the pens for protection at night. Mr. Slacum's share was subsequently sold at the request of his nephew, who was a midshipman on board my ship, to Dr. M'Laughlin for eight hundred and sixty dollars—ten dollars a head.

The Willamette is now, through the interest felt and advances made by Mr. Slacum, well supplied with cattle, which are fast increasing in numbers.

We found the farm of Mr. Young very much out of order, although I understood that two persons had been put in charge of it on wages at one dollar a day. The farm-house at which we stopped, was entirely open, and every thing seemed to be going fast to ruin. Johnson, in hunting about the premises, found a sick man, a native of the Sandwich Islands, lying in a bunk. In a small kitchen half a pig was hanging by its hind legs, roasting over a slow fire; and every thing seemed in confusion. We did not stay long, but rode on to his saw-mill, which we found in ruins. It was badly located, although erected at much expense, for there was little timber of value in the neighbourhood. Shortly after Mr. Young's death the mill-dam was washed

away, and there was no money to erect it again, even if it had been thought desirable to do so. We found it wholly deserted. I was desirous of having some further search made for the bones of a mastodon, parts of whose skeleton had been obtained by Captain Goach, master of a small vessel engaged in the salmon-fishery, a few months before our arrival. On the locality being pointed out, I found that the mass of the dam and other alluvial deposits had been heaped upon the place, and created such an obstruction as would have rendered their removal an herculean task, and have required some weeks' labour.

Neither I nor my officers had time to spare to accomplish this task; besides, it was very probable that the bones, which had been represented to me as nearly denuded prior to the flood, had been washed away and lost. The bank in which the bones were found is composed of red marl and gravel.

After leaving the mill, we had a long ride before us; for it was our intention to reach Champooing before dark. The country, as we approached that place, became much more thickly settled, and the ground stony. Before dark we reached a deserted house, belonging to George Gay, opposite to Champooing, and formerly occupied by Mr. Young. Finding the stream difficult to cross, we determined to take up our quarters in this house. About two miles from our stopping-place, we passed some salt springs, to which the cattle and game resort in great numbers: they are strongly saline, and cover a considerable extent of ground. This is considered, as Johnson informed me, the best grazing ground for their cattle.

In consequence of the baggage-horses and party losing their way, they did not reach the camp until near midnight.

Shortly after our arrival, George Gay was employed "to break in," as he called it, a cow for milking! This operation, as performed by George, however necessary, was not calculated to raise him in any one's opinion, and therefore I shall not venture upon a description, farther than to say, that the treatment the poor beast received was in my opinion as unnecessary as it was cruel.

In the evening, we had a visit from Mr. Moore and several of the other neighbours, and I was much amused with the various accounts they gave of their trappers' life. I must here express the correct views they entertained relative to the introduction of spirits into the settlement. To my surprise, they seemed to be of an unanimous opinion that spirituous liquors would soon destroy them; and since Mr. Slacum's visit they have entered into an agreement among themselves to forego their use. It is a wise determination, and as long as

adhered to the country will thrive. But should this pest be introduced, the vice of drunkenness will probably reach a height unknown elsewhere; for such is the ease with which a livelihood is gained here, that persons may be supported, and indeed grow rich, in idleness. According to the inhabitants, one month in a year of labour is all that is required for a comfortable support. This labour consists in preparing the ground, putting the seed into it, and when it is ripe, reaping the harvest. Cattle, as I have before said, require no protection or care, except to guard them from the wolves. Two-thirds of the time of the settlers is consequently at their own disposal; and unless education, with its moral influence, is attended to strictly in this young settlement, these very advantages will prove its curse. On the missionaries who have settled here will depend in a great measure the future character of the inhabitants; and on them also will rest the responsibility of maintaining the morals, as well as superintending the education, of the rising population. I trust they will both see and feel the great necessity of that strict attention to their duties necessary to insure success.

In the morning, before dawn, the two Indian boys belonging to Johnson came over to our hut for the purpose of looking for their milk-pans. Unknown to us, we had laid on its side, for a seat, a cupboard which contained them. This the boys came in search of, and in their haste awoke Mr. Drayton, who naturally thought they intended to steal some of our things: he accordingly pelted them with our boots and shoes, and all other articles that came to hand. This aroused us all, when a general outcry was raised, and the Indian boys made a precipitate retreat, not, however, before they had secured one of the objects of their search.

After breakfast, we crossed the river to Johnson's, and I was, on this second visit, more impressed with the filth, both in and out doors than before.

It was now determined that Mr. Drayton should take the boat down the river, and that I should pass through the eastern part of the Willamette Valley on horseback, to reach the falls by dark. This George Gay said could be easily done, with fresh and good horses. Taking him as a guide, I set off, and after passing a few miles, we crossed a low ridge of rough rocky ground, of trap formation, about a mile wide: it was well wooded with pines and firs. After passing the ridge, we again entered on fine prairies, part of the farm of Dr. Bailey. This was one of the most comfortable I had yet seen, and was certainly in the neatest order. Dr. Bailey had married one of the girls who came out with the missionaries, and the mistress of the establishment was as pleasing as it was well conducted. Dr.

Bailey desiring to accompany us to the falls, I gladly concluded to await their dinner, and before it was served had an opportunity of looking about the premises. The locality resembles the prairies I have so often spoken of, but there was something in the arrangements of the farm that seemed advanced beyond the other settlements of the country. The garden was, in particular, exceedingly well kept, and had in it all the best vegetables of our own country. This was entirely the work of Mrs. Bailey, whose activity could not rest content until it was accomplished. She had followed the mission as a teacher, until she found there was no field for labour. She had been in hope that the great missionary field to the north, of which I have before spoken, would be occupied; but this being neglected, she had left them

Dr. Bailey had been the practising physician of the mission. He had been several years in the country, and was one of a party that, while passing through to California, was attacked by the Indians in their camp, and nearly all murdered. Dr. Bailey, after being severely wounded, made his escape, and returned to the Willamette; but he bears the marks of several wounds on his head and face. He spoke well of the country, considers it fruitful, and healthy for white men; and that it would be so for the Indians, if they could be persuaded to take care of themselves. The ague and fever, though common on the low prairies, was not of a dangerous type, and after the first attack, those of subsequent years were less violent, even if it did occur, which was rare. The climate, however, was very destructive to the Indians, of whom at least one-fourth died off yearly.

When an Indian is sick, and considered beyond moving, he is poisoned by the medicine-man; for which purpose a decoction of the wild cucumber (Bryonia) is given him. Some of the roots of this plant grow to a very large size; and I saw some at Mr. Waller's three feet long by twelve inches in diameter.

Dr. Bailey also related to me an anecdote of Mr. Farnham,* who has written upon Oregon. A few days before the latter left the country, they were lost in the woods, and were obliged to pass a cold and dark night up to their ankles in mire: this the Doctor thought had cured his enthusiasm; and the first news he received of him was his violent attack upon the country on which, a few months before, he had written so strong a panegyric.

The next farm I stopped at was that of Mr. Walker, who came

* Mr. Farnham had been staying with Dr. Bailey, and had prepared during that time the memorial of the settlers to Congress, speaking of it in the highest and most exalted terms, and was one of the most enthusiastic in its praise. His account subsequently given of Oregon, differs very materially from the memorial.

from Missouri, with all his family, last year: he did not like the country, and wished to go to California by the first opportunity. His principal objection, he told me, was to the climate, which was too wet for business. He said that the land was good, but only for crops of small grain, which there is no market for, nor is there a probability of one for some time. Indian corn cannot be raised: it was, however, a first-rate grazing country. He was a good specimen of a border-man, and appeared to think nothing of a change of domicile, although he is much past the middle age, with grown-up sons and daughters around him. He intended to go to California, and if the country did not please him, he would travel home by way of Mexico. His family consisted of eight or ten persons.*

George Gay now thought it proper to notify me that we ought not to delay any longer, as we had to cross the Powder river, and he did not know the state it was in. After a hard gallop, we reached that stream at the usual fording-place. We, however, found that it was entirely filled with drift-wood, and impassable at that place for our horses. This difficulty was soon obviated, for while we were transporting the saddles, &c., across the raft of timber, he had searched out a place where the horses might cross, and dashed in on one of them, while we drove the others into the river. We were soon mounted again, and on our way. This stream is about four hundred feet wide, and then about twenty feet deep. Quantities of large and fine timber were locked together, until they entirely covered the surface.

The country now became exceedingly rough, overgrown with brushwood, and in places wet and miry. It was chiefly covered with heavy pine timber. From Dr. Bailey I learned that the small prairies we occasionally passed were not capable of cultivation, owing to their being flooded after a few hours of rain.

A few miles further on we passed the Little Powder river, which was termed fordable, though the horses were obliged to swim it, after which Gay gave me a specimen of his rapid mode of riding. Having made up my mind to follow, I kept after him, and on my arrival at the falls, could not help congratulating myself that we had reached our destination in safety, for the last few miles of the route was a sort of break-neck one.

At the falls I found Mr. Drayton comfortably encamped, and Mr. and Mrs. Waller again pressed us to partake of their hospitality. I

* Mr. Walker subsequently joined the party I sent across to California, from the Willamette, and then entered the service of Mr. Suter.

occupied the evening in getting my usual observations for latitude and time.

Mr. Drayton desiring to stay a longer time at the falls, to procure as many specimens of fish as he could, and make drawings, I determined to return to Vancouver without him; which I did by the following day at sunset. On the way I stopped at the boat-builders' camp, who I found had made great progress in their undertaking, and appeared to work with great unanimity.

At Vancouver, I was again kindly made welcome by Dr. M'Laughlin, Mr. Douglass, and the officers of the establishment. During my absence, Mr. Peter Ogden, chief factor of the northern district, had arrived with his brigade. The fort had, in consequence, a very different appearance from the one it bore when I left it. I was exceedingly amused with the voyageurs of the brigade, who were to be seen lounging about in groups, decked in gay feathers, ribands, &c., full of conceit, and with the flaunting air of those who consider themselves the beau-ideal of grace and beauty; full of frolic and fun, and seeming to have nothing to do but to attend to the decorations of their persons and seek for pleasure; looking down with contempt upon those who are employed about the fort, whose sombre cast of countenance and business employments form a strong contrast to these jovial fellows.

Mr. Ogden has been thirty-two years in this country, and consequently possesses much information respecting it; having travelled nearly all over it. He resides at Fort St. James, on Stuart's Lake, and has six posts under his care.

The northern section of the country he represents as not susceptible of cultivation, on account of the proximity of the snowy mountains, which cause sudden changes, even in the heat of summer, that would destroy the crops.

His posts are amply supplied with salmon from the neighbouring waters, that empty themselves into the sounds on the coast. These fish are dried, and form the greatest part of the food of those employed by the Company during the whole year. Their small-stores of flour, &c., are all carried from Colville and Vancouver. Furs are very plenty in the northern region, and are purchased at low prices from the Indians: his return, this year, was valued at one hundred thousand dollars, and this, he informed me, was much less than the usual amount.

On the other hand, the southern section of this country, I was here informed, was scarcely worth the expense of an outlay for a party of trappers.

This southern country, as will be seen from what has been already stated, is very well adapted to the raising of cattle and sheep: of the

former, many have been introduced by parties, which trap on their way thither and return with cattle. Although there were but a few head of them four or five years before, in 1841 there were upwards of ten thousand. The whole country is particularly adapted to grazing, which, together with the mildness of the climate, must cause this region to become, in a short time, one of the best-stocked countries in the world.

The price of cattle may be quoted at ten dollars a head; but those that are broken in for labour, or milch-cows, command a higher price; and in some places in the Willamette Valley they have been sold for the enormous price of eighty dollars. Every endeavour is made to keep the price of cattle up, as labour is usually paid for in stock.

The price of labour for a mechanic may be set down at from two dollars and a half, to three dollars a day; and there is much difficulty to procure them even at that rate. The wages for a common labourer is one dollar per day. The price of wheat is fixed at sixty-two and a half cents per bushel by the Company; for which any thing but spirits may be drawn from the stores, at fifty per cent. advance on the London cost. This is supposed, all things taken into consideration, to be equal to one dollar and twelve cents per bushel; but it is difficult for the settlers so to understand it, and they are by no means satisfied with the rate. There is a description of currency here, called beaver money; which seems to be among the whites what blankets are among the Indians. The value of the currency may be estimated from the fact, that a beaver-skin represents about two dollars throughout the territory.

In speaking of the Willamette Valley, I have viewed its advantages for raising crops, pasturage of stock, and the facilities of settlers becoming rich. There is, however, one objection to its ever becoming a large settlement, in consequence of the interruption of the navigation of its rivers in the dry season; which renders it difficult to get to a market, as well as to receive supplies.

The salmon-fishery may be classed as one of the great sources of wealth, for it affords a large amount of food at a very low price, and of the very best quality: it does not extend above the falls. I found it impossible to obtain any data to found a calculation of the quantity taken, but it cannot be short of eight hundred barrels; and this after the Indian manner of catching them, as before described. The finest of the salmon are those caught nearest the sea.

The settlers and Indians told us that the salmon as they pass up the river become poorer, and when they reach the tributaries of the upper Columbia, they are exceedingly exhausted, and have their bodies and heads much disfigured and cut, and their tails and fins worn out by

contact with the rocks. Many of the salmon in consequence die: these the Indians are in the habit of drying for food, by hanging them on the limbs of trees. This is to preserve them from the wolves, and to be used in time of need, when they are devoured, though rotten and full of maggots. The fish of the upper waters are said to be hardly edible, and, compared with those caught at the mouth of the Columbia, are totally different in flavour. The latter are the richest and most delicious fish I ever recollect to have tasted: if any thing, they were too fat to eat, and one can perceive a difference even in those taken at the Willamette Falls, which, however, are the best kind for salting. There are four different kinds of salmon, which frequent this river in different months: the latest appears in October, and is the only kind that frequents the Cowlitz river. The finest sort is a dark silvery fish, of large size, three or four feet long, and weighing forty or fifty pounds.

There is one point which seems to be still in doubt, namely, where the spawn of this fish is deposited. It is asserted, and generally believed, that none of the old fish ever return to the sea again. It has not been ascertained whether the young fry go to the ocean; and, if they do so, whether as spawn or young fish. Some light will be thrown on this subject in the Ichthyological Report.

Mr. Drayton, during the time he remained at the falls, procured a beautiful specimen of a small-sized sucker, which the Indians caught in their nets, and of which he made a drawing. The lamprey eels were also a source of curiosity: they seemed to increase in numbers, crawling up by suction an inch at a time. At these eels the boy who accompanied Mr. Drayton took pleasure in throwing stones, which excited the wrath of the Indians, as they said they should catch no more fish if he continued his sport. They have many superstitions connected with the salmon, and numerous practices growing out of these are religiously observed: thus, if any one dies in their lodges during the fishing season, they stop fishing for several days; if a horse crosses the ford, they are sure no more fish will be taken.

During the fishing season there are about seventy Indians, of both sexes, who tarry at the falls, although the actual residents are not, according to Mr. Waller, beyond fifteen. They dwell in lodges, which resemble those described heretofore, and are built of planks split from the pine trees. These are set up on end, forming one apartment, of from thirty to forty feet long, by about twenty wide. The roof has invariably a double pitch, and is made of cedar bark: the doorway is small, and either round or rounded at the top. I have mentioned that the outside is well stocked with fleas: it need scarcely be said what the condition of the inside is.

These Indians are to be seen lounging about or asleep in the day-

time; but they generally pass their nights in gambling. Mr. Drayton, while at the falls, obtained a knowledge of some of their games. The women usually play during the day at a game resembling dice. The implements are made of the incisor teeth of the beaver, and four of these are used, which are engraved on two sides with different figures, and the figures on two of the teeth are alike: these are taken in the hand and thrown on a mat, the players sitting on it, opposite to one another. They are of the shape represented in the cut. If all the blank sides come up, it counts nothing; if all the engraved or marked sides, it counts two; if two blanks and two differently marked sides, it counts nothing; but if two with like marks, it counts one. The game is generally twenty, which are marked with pieces of stick; the tens are noted with a smaller stick. This game is played for strings of dentalium, called by them "ahikia;" each string is about two feet long, and will pass for considerable value, as the shells are difficult to procure: ten of them are said to be worth a beaver-skin.

INDIAN DICE.

The men and boys play a game with small bows and arrows: a wheel, about a foot in diameter, is wound round with grass, and is rolled over smooth ground; the players are divided into two parties: one rolls the wheel, while the other shoots the arrow at it. If he sticks his arrow into the wheel, he holds it on the ground edgewise towards the one who rolled it, who, if he shoots his arrow into it, wins his opponent's arrow; and this goes on by turns.

Another game is played by a party of men and boys, in the following manner: two poles are taken, six or eight feet long, and wound round with grass; these are set up about fifty feet apart. Each player has a spear, which he throws in his turn. Whichever side, after a number of throws, puts the greatest number of spears in their opponent's pole, wins the game. The usual bet among the men is a cotton shirt.

Mr. Drayton also paid a visit to the Indian village on the Klackamus river, which is about three miles from the falls, in company with Mr. Waller. The village is one and a half miles up the Klackamus, and its inhabitants number about forty-five individuals. Mr. Waller went there to preach, and about half the inhabitants of the village attended. The chief was the interpreter, and was thought to have done his office in rather a waggish sort of manner. Preaching to the natives through an interpreter is at all times difficult, and especially so when the speaker has to do it in the Indian jargon of the country. This village

has been disputed ground between Mr. Waller and Mr. Bachelét, the former claiming it as coming within his district. Not long before our visit, Mr. Bachelét had planted a staff and hoisted on it a flag bearing a cross. When this became known to Mr. Waller, he went to the place and pulled it down, and has driven Mr. Bachelét away. Such difficulties are very much to be deprecated, as they cannot but injure the general cause of Christianity in the eyes of the natives; and it is to be wished that they could be settled among the different sects without giving them such publicity; for the natives seldom fail to take advantage of these circumstances, and to draw conclusions unfavourable to both parties.

The men of the Klackamus village are rather taller and better-looking than the Clatsop or Chinook Indians: they belong to the Callapuya tribe. The women and children are most of them crippled and diseased. They have been quite a large tribe in former times, as is proved by the crowded state of their burying-ground, which covers quite a large space, and has a multitude of bones scattered around.

Their mode of burial is to dig a hole, in which the body is placed, with the clothes belonging to the individual: it is then covered up with earth, and a broad head-board is placed upright, of from two to six feet high, which is frequently painted or carved with grotesque figures: all the personal property of the deceased is placed upon this, consisting of wooden spoons, hats, tin kettles, beads, gun-barrels bent double, and tin pots. Although they are very superstitious about disturbing the articles belonging to the dead, yet all these have holes punched in them, to prevent their being of any use to others, or a temptation to their being taken off. It frequently happens that the head-boards will not hold all the articles, in which case sticks are used in addition. To rob their burying-grounds of bodies, is attended with much danger, as they would not hesitate to kill any one who was discovered in the act of carrying off a skull or bones.

Of their medicine-men they have a great dread, and even of their bones after death. Thus, a medicine-man was buried near this burying-ground about a year before our visit to the country, whose body the wolves dug up: no one could be found to bury his bones again, and they were still to be seen bleaching on the surface of the ground.

It is no sinecure to be a medicine-man; and if they inspire dread in others, they are made to feel it themselves, being frequently obliged to pay the forfeit of their own lives, if they are not successful in curing their patients. The chief of the Klackamus tribe told Mr. Drayton that some of his men had gone to kill a medicine-man, in consequence

of the death of his wife. These men afterwards returned with a horse and some smaller presents from the medicine-man, which he had paid to save his life.

This rule equally applies to the whites who prescribe for Indians, an instance of which occurred a short time before our arrival, when Mr. Black, a chief trader in one of the northern posts, was shot dead in his own room by an Indian to whose parent (a chief) he had been charitable enough to give some medicine. The chief died soon after taking it, and Mr. Black paid the forfeit of his kindness with his life. The deed was done in a remarkably bold and daring manner. The Indian went to the fort and desired to see Mr. Black, saying he was sick and cold. He was allowed to enter, and Mr. Black had a fire made for him, without any suspicion of his intentions. On his turning his back, however, towards the Indian, he was instantly shot, and fell dead on his face, when the man made his escape from the fort before any suspicions were excited of his being the murderer.

To Mr. Black the world is indebted for the greater part of the geographical knowledge which has been published of the country west of the Rocky Mountains; and he not only devoted much of his time to this subject, but also to the making of many collections in the other departments of natural history, as well as in geology and mineralogy.

I remained at Vancouver till the morning of the 17th, and passed these few days with much pleasure in the company of the gentlemen of the fort, of whose attentions and great kindness I shall long entertain a grateful remembrance.

Mr. Waldron now joined me from Astoria, without bringing any news of the Peacock or tender. I did not think it worth while to wait any longer their coming, when I had so much duty to perform elsewhere. After completing orders for Captain Hudson, I determined to return. Plumondon was sent to the Willamette Falls for Mr. Drayton, as I desired to have some consultation with him before my departure.

The day before I left the fort, Mr. Ogden informed me that he had made arrangements to take me as far as the Cowlitz Farm in his boat, on my way to Nisqually, and desired that I would allow Mr. Drayton to accompany him up the river as far as Wallawalla. To both of these arrangements I readily assented.

During my stay at Vancouver, I frequently saw Casenove, the chief of the Klackatack tribe. He lives in a lodge near the village of Vancouver, and has always been a warm friend of the whites. He was once lord of all this domain. His village was situated about six miles below Vancouver, on the north side of the river, and, within the last fifteen years, was quite populous: he then could muster four or five

hundred warriors; but the ague and fever have, within a short space of time, swept off the whole tribe, and it is said that they all died within three weeks. He now stands alone, his land, tribe, and property all departed, and he left a dependant on the bounty of the Company. Casenove is about fifty years of age, and a noble and intelligent-looking Indian. At the fort he is always welcome, and is furnished with a plate at meal-times at the side-table. I could not but feel for the situation of one who, in the short space of a few years, has lost not only his property and importance, but his whole tribe and kindred, as I saw him quietly enter the apartment, wrapped in his blanket, and take his seat at the lonely board. He scarce seemed to attract the notice of any one, but ate his meal in silence, and retired. He has always been a great friend to the whites, and during the time of his prosperity was ever ready to search out and bring to punishment all those who committed depredations on strangers.

Casenove's tribe is not the only one that has suffered in this way; many others have been swept off entirely by this fatal disease, without leaving a single survivor to tell their melancholy tale.

The cause of this great mortality among the Indians has been attributed to the manner in which the disease has been treated, or rather to their superstitious practices. Their medicine-men and women are no better than jugglers, and use no medicine except some deleterious roots; while, from the character of these Indians, and their treatment of an unsuccessful practitioner, the whites decline administering any remedies, for fear of consequences like those to which I have alluded.

On the morning of the 17th, Vancouver was awake at an early hour, and preparations were actively making; a voyageur occasionally was to be seen, decked out in all his finery, feathers, and flowing ribands, tying on his ornamented leggins, sashes, and the usual worked tobacco and fire pouch. The latter is of the shape of a lady's reticule, and generally made of red or blue cloth, prettily worked with beads. In working them the wives of the officers of the Company exercise great taste, and it is deemed fully as essential a part of dress in a voyageur's wardrobe as in a lady's. The simple bag does not, however, afford sufficient scope for ornament, and it has usually several long tails to it, which are worked with silk of gaudy colours.

The ladies of the country are dressed after our own bygone fashions, with the exception of leggins, made of red and blue cloth, richly ornamented. Their feet, which are small and pretty, are covered with worked moccasins. Many of them have a dignified look and carriage: their black eyes and hair, and brown ruddy complexion, combined with a pleasing expression, give them an air of independence and usefulness

that one little expects to see. As wives, they are spoken of as most devoted, and many of them have performed deeds in the hour of danger and difficulty, worthy of being recorded. They understand the characters of Indians well.

About ten o'clock, we were all summoned to the great dining-hall by Dr. M'Laughlin, to take the parting cup customary in this country. When all were assembled, wine was poured out, and we drank to each other's welfare, prosperity, &c. This was truly a cup of good-fellowship and kind feeling. This hanging to old Scotch customs in the way it was done here is pleasant, and carries with it pleasing recollections, especially when there is that warmth of feeling with it, that there was on this occasion. After this was over, we formed quite a cavalcade to the river-side, which was now swollen to the top of its banks, and rushing by with irresistible force.

On reaching the river, we found one of Mr. Ogden's boats manned by fourteen voyageurs, all gaily dressed in their ribands and plumes; the former tied in large bunches of divers colours, with numerous ends floating in the breeze. The boat was somewhat of the model of our whale-boats, only much larger, and of the kind built expressly to accommodate the trade: they are provided yearly at Okonagan, and are constructed in a few days: they are clinker-built, and all the timbers are flat. These boats are so light that they are easily carried across the portages. They use the gum of the pine to cover them instead of pitch.

After having a hearty shake of the hand, Captain Varney, Mr. Ogden, and myself, embarked. The signal being given, we shoved off, and the voyageurs at once struck up one of their boat-songs. After paddling up the stream for some distance, we made a graceful sweep to reach the centre, and passed by the spectators with great animation. The boat and voyageurs seemed a fit object to grace the wide-flowing river. On we merrily went, while each voyageur in succession took up the song, and all joined in the chorus. In two hours and a half we reached the mouth of the Cowlitz, a distance of thirty-five miles.

In the Cowlitz we found a strong current to contend against, and by nightfall had only proceeded twelve miles further. As we encamped, the weather changed, and rain began to fall, which lasted till next morning.

I had much amusement in watching the voyageurs, who are as peculiar in their way as sailors. I was struck with their studious politeness and attention to each other, and their constant cheerfulness.

On the second day, our voyageurs had doffed their finery, and their

hats were carefully covered with oiled skins. They thus appeared more prepared for hard work. The current became every mile more rapid, and the difficulty of surmounting it greater. The management of the boats in the rapids is dexterous and full of excitement, as well to the passengers as to the voyageurs themselves. The bowman is the most important man, giving all the directions, and is held responsible for the safety of the boat; and his keen eye and quick hand in the use of his paddle, delights and inspires a confidence in him in moments of danger that is given without stint. We did not make more than ten miles during the day, and were forced to encamp three miles below the farm.

On the 19th we reached our destination. On our approach, although there were no spectators, except a few Indians, to be expected, the voyageurs again mounted their finery, and gaily chaunted their boat-song.

Mr. Ogden had been one of the first who travelled over this part of country, and he informed me that he has seen the whole country inundated by the rise of the river. This, however, can but rarely occur, and could only be the result of a sudden melting of the snows when accompanied with violent rain-storms.

Plumondon had gone before, to request Mr. Forrest to send the wagon for our baggage; and we found it duly waiting at the landing.

In the afternoon, I made a visit, with Mr. Ogden, to the Catholic Mission, and several of the settlers' houses. That of Plumondon we found quite comfortable. The neighbourhood, though consisting of few families, appears very happy and united. They prefer the Cowlitz to the Willamette, although the land here is not so good as in the valley of the latter; but they say that many vegetables succeed here, that will not grow on the Willamette.

It was with much regret that I parted from Mr. Ogden and Captain Varney. We had enjoyed ourselves much, and I shall long remember their kindness and jovial company. The day they left us proved very rainy; it was impossible for any one to stir out, and the mud was ankle-deep. I felt disappointed at this, as I wished to make some observations, to test those I had already taken in passing before. Mr. Forrest was very attentive, and did all in his power to amuse me; but feeling disposed to sleep, I lay down, and after a short time awoke, with the feeling of having overslept myself. I jumped up to look at my pocket-chronometer, which, to be careful of, I had placed on the table. Lying near by it was a small silver watch, which I had not before observed, and my surprise was great to find that they both showed the same hour. I uttered my surprise aloud just as Mr

Forrest entered the room, and told me that he had found my watch altogether wrong, (it showed Greenwich time,) and he had set it for me. I could not help making an exclamation of astonishment. We stood looking at each other, and he appeared fully as surprised as I was, when I told him that he had changed my Greenwich time for that of Cowlitz, and had interrupted my series of observations. He thought it passing strange that I should prefer Greenwich time to that of Cowlitz, and told me that he was sure his watch was right, for it kept time with the sun exactly! This incident, though sufficiently provoking at the time, afforded me much amusement after it was over, and was a lesson to me never to trust a chronometer to such an accident again.

It having partially cleared up the next morning, I set off, accompanied by Plumondon, his wife and child, and another settler as my guide. We departed at eight o'clock, and being provided with good horses, made rapid progress. By the advice of Mr. Forrest, I endeavoured to take a canoe on the Chickeeles, sending the horses to meet us, without loads, over the mountain.

We rode up to the Indian lodges, near the Chickeeles river, in order to engage some of them to accompany us. I have before spoken of making a bargain with them, and of the time and patience necessary before any thing can be accomplished. I now saw that it was a hopeless task to attempt to overcome their perfect nonchalance. Time, haste, clothes, presents, are nothing to them; rum is the only thing that will move them at all times, and of this I had none, nor should I have made use of it if I had. When Plumondon had exhausted his words on them without effect, we rode off, succeeded in passing the mountain road quickly, and were well satisfied that we had thus shown our independence.

I have noticed the excessive love that the whole Indian population seem to have for rum: many of these poor creatures would labour for days, and submit to all sorts of fatigue, for the sake of a small quantity. No other inducement will move them in the salmon and cammass seasons, for then they have nothing more to desire.

Towards night we encamped on a small prairie, where the grasses, flowers, and trees, were in every variety of bloom.

The Indians on the Chickeeles river were engaged in the salmon-fishery. This is effected by staking the river across with poles, and constructing fikes or fish-holes, through which the fish are obliged to pass. Over these are erected triangles to support a staging, on which the Indians stand, with nets and spears, and take the fish as they attempt to pass through: the fish are then dried by smoking, and pre-

pared for future use. The smoked fish are packed in baskets; but the supply is far short of their wants.

The next morning we set out early, and reached the opposite bank of Shute's river. On the following day before noon, I returned to Nisqually, fully as much enchanted with the beautiful park scenery as when I passed it before. To it was now added occasional peeps of Mount Rainier's high and snowy peak.

OLD MISSION-HOUSE, OREGON.

# CHAPTER XI.

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# CHAPTER XI.

## WALLAWALLA.

### 1841.

On my return to Nisqually, I found that news had been received from the various surveying and exploring parties, all of which it was reported were advancing rapidly in the execution of their duties. The preparations for the scientific operations, which had been left to the charge of Lieutenant Carr, were all completed, and the two log houses had been built, in which we now began to perform the pendulum experiments, and make astronomic observations. In these we were engaged until the 4th of July. As the details of them will be given in another place, I shall only advert here to the operations which I had entrusted to Mr. Drayton, and which will form the subject of the present chapter.

It was stated in the preceding chapter, that through Mr. Ogden's kindness, a passage was offered up the Columbia river as far as Wallawalla. It had been my original intention to despatch a party from the Peacock in this direction, to cross the Rocky Mountains to the head waters of Yellowstone river; and I had engaged a Mr. Rogers to accompany it. Orders for the purpose had been prepared, and left to be delivered to Captain Hudson when he should arrive.

I now, however, began to apprehend that some serious accident had happened to that vessel, and I deemed it important to secure at all events, the examination of so interesting a part of this country, particularly when it could be performed under such favourable circumstances as those offered by Mr. Ogden. Mr. Drayton was therefore detached to make this jaunt, and to his industry and observation I am indebted for many of the facts about to be detailed. For others

of them I have to acknowledge my obligation to the missionaries, and the officers of the Hudson Bay Company.

Previous to the departure of the brigade, Mr. Drayton had made many collections in natural history. After I left him, the weather continued very rainy for several days, and the Columbia in consequence began to rise again rapidly: the low prairies were overflowed, and the wheat in many places was injured. To show the porous nature of the soil, I will mention that the well at Vancouver rises and falls with the river, although it is a quarter of a mile from the bank. This is not the case in any other place in the territory where wells are sunk; but I have little doubt the same thing would occur on any of the low prairies of the Columbia, for the soil of all of them seems very similar. At Vancouver they use the river in preference to the well-water, though they do not consider the latter as unwholesome.

Mr. Drayton obtained in the mill-pond, specimens of a beautiful spotted trout, which is abundant there. They take the bait readily, and were caught with pieces of dried salmon: they feed upon insects, and small white moths are their favourite bait, at which they are seen to spring most greedily.

Until the 26th, repairs were making to the boats, and preparations were going on for embarking the goods. The shape of these boats has been before described: they have great strength and buoyancy, carry three tons weight, and have a crew of eight men, besides a padroon: they are thirty feet long and five and a half feet beam, sharp at both ends, clinker-built, and have no knees. In building them, flat timbers of oak are bent to the requisite shape by steaming; they are bolted to a flat keel, at distances of a foot from each other: the planks are of cedar, and generally extend the whole length of the boat. The gunwale is of the same kind of wood, but the rowlocks are of birch. The peculiarity in the construction of these boats is, that they are only riveted at each end with a strong rivet, and being well gummed, they have no occasion for nailing. They answer, and indeed are admirably adapted to, all the purposes for which they are intended; are so light as to be easily transported over the portages by their crews, and in case of accident are easily repaired.

The goods embarked for the supply of the northern posts are all done up carefully in bales of ninety pounds each, and consist of groceries, clothing, flour, powder, bullets, &c. It may readily be imagined that the different packages vary very materially in size, from a few inches square to two feet. This equal division of the weight is necessary, in consequence of the numerous portages they have to make, as well as convenient in forming packs for horses, which they take at

Okonagan for a journey to Thompson river, which takes twenty days to accomplish.

Mr. Ogden is generally six months of every year travelling to and from his post on the south end of Stuart's Lake, called Fort St. James, in latitude 54° N. He leaves it early in the spring, and returns in the fall of each year. Before he departs, he fits out his summer trappers, and on his return those for the winter's campaign. He brings down with him the produce of a year's hunting. This post is the most profitable of all the sections west of the mountains. The average cost of a beaver-skin is about twenty-five cents, and when it reaches Vancouver it has enhanced in price to two dollars and fifty cents. The amount of furs brought down by Mr. Ogden yearly will net in London £50,000, a fact which will give some idea of the value of this trade.

In setting out on his journey, Mr. Ogden's practice, as well as that of all the Company's parties, is to go only a few miles the first day, in order that they may discover if any thing has been neglected, and be able to return for it. For this reason their first encampment was at the saw-mill. Their brigade consisted of nine boats, rowed by sixty voyageurs, eight of whom had their Indian wives with them. Besides these were Mr. and Mrs. M'Kinley, (Mr. Ogden's son-in-law,) who was to take charge of the Wallawalla Fort, and a Mr. Cameron, also of the Company, who was on his way to Mr. Black's station. The boats take each sixty packages, excepting the trader, which is Mr. Ogden's own boat, and carries only forty. The boatmen are Canadians, excepting about one-fourth, who are Iroquois Indians, all strong, active, and hardy men. They are provided only with a square sail, as the wind blows generally either directly up or down the river.

On the 27th June, they were off at early dawn, took their breakfast at Prairie du Thé, and reached the Company's fishery, at the Cascades, at 6 P. M., where they encamped. This is the head of ship navigation, where the river takes a turn northward, and for upwards of two miles is comparatively narrow—four hundred and fifty yards wide. It falls in this distance about forty feet, and the whole body of water drives through this narrow channel with great impetuosity, forming high waves and fearful whirlpools, too dangerous to be encountered by any boat. When the river is low, these rapids are sometimes passed by skilful boatmen, but there have been many lives lost in the attempt.

The country bordering on the river is low until the Cascades are approached, with the exception of several high basaltic bluffs. Some of them are two hundred feet high, pointed like turreted castles.

An old Indian, called Slyboots, made his call upon Mr. Ogden for his annual present, consisting of some tobacco and a shirt. This

present is made in consequence of his once having preserved Mr. Ogden's party from an attack, by giving information that it was to take place. By this timely notice Mr. Ogden was enabled to guard himself and party, by taking refuge upon a small island just above the Cascades.

The Columbia, at this part, passes through the Cascade range of mountains, between high and rocky banks. The geological character of this range is basaltic lava, basaltic conglomerate, and sandstone. Large quantities of petrified wood are to be found in the neighbourhood. Mr. Drayton obtained specimens of all of these.

The river, thus far, is navigated by seeking out the eddies. The great difficulty is found in doubling the points, which are at times impassable, except by tracking and poling. The oars are used after the French or Spanish fashion, adding the whole weight of the body to the strength of arm.

At the Cascades, during the fishing season, there are about three hundred Indians, only about one-tenth of whom are residents: they occupy three lodges; but there was formerly a large town here. Great quantities of fish are taken by them; and the manner of doing this resembles that at the Willamette Falls. They also construct canals, on a line parallel with the shore, with rocks and stones, for about fifty feet in length, through which the fish pass in order to avoid the strong current, and are here taken in great numbers.

There are two portages here, under the names of the new and the old. At the first, only half of the load is landed, and the boats are tracked up for half a mile further, when the load is again shipped. The boats are then tracked to the old portage. A strong eddy occurs at this place, which runs in an opposite direction; and here it is necessary to land the whole of the cargo; after which, the empty boats are again tracked three quarters of a mile beyond.

To a stranger, unacquainted with the navigation of this river, the management of these boatmen becomes a source of wonder; for it is surprising how they can succeed in surmounting such rapids at all as the Cascades. Their mode of transporting the goods, and the facilities with which they do it, are equally novel. The load is secured on the back of a voyageur by a band which passes round the forehead and under and over the bale; he squats down, adjusts his load, and rises with ninety pounds on his back; another places ninety pounds more on the top, and off he trots, half bent, to the end of the portage. One of the gentlemen of the Company informed me, that he had seen a voyageur carry six packages of ninety pounds each on his back (five hundred and forty pounds); but it was for a wager, and the distance

was not more than one hundred yards. The voyageurs in general have not the appearance of being very strong men. At these portages, the Indians assist for a small present of tobacco. The boats seldom escape injury in passing; and in consequence of that which they received on this occasion, the party was detained the rest of the day repairing damages.

On their starting next morning, they found that the boats leaked; and put on shore again to gum them. This operation, Mr. Drayton describes thus. On landing the goods, the boats are tracked up and turned bottom up, when they are suffered to dry; two flat-sided pieces of fire-wood, about two feet long, are then laid together, and put into the fire, until both are well lighted, and the wood burns readily at one end and in the space between; they then draw the lighted end slowly along the gummed seam, blowing at the same time between the sticks: this melts the gum, and a small spatula is used to smooth it off and render the seam quite tight. The common gum of the pine or hemlock is that used; and a supply is always carried with them.

A short distance above the Cascades, they passed the locality of the sunken forest, which was at the time entirely submerged. Mr. Drayton, on his return, visited the place, and the water had fallen so much as to expose the stumps to view: they were of pine, and quite rotten, so much so that they broke when they were taken hold of. He is of opinion that the point on which the pine forest stands, has been undermined by the great currents during the freshets; and that it has sunk bodily down until the trees were entirely submerged. The whole mass appears to be so matted together by the roots as to prevent their separation. Changes, by the same undermining process, were observed to be going on continually in other parts of the river.

On the 30th of June, they had a favourable wind, but it blew so hard that they were obliged to reef their sail, and afterwards found the waves and wind too heavy for them to run without great danger; they in consequence put on shore to wait until it abated. In these forty miles of the river, it usually blows a gale from the westward in the summer season, almost daily.

In the evening, they reached within seven miles of the Dalles, and four below the mission. Here the roar of the water at the Dalles was heard distinctly.

The country had now assumed a different aspect; the trees began to decrease in number, and the land to look dry and burnt up. Before pitching their tents, the men were beating about the bushes to drive away the rattlesnakes, a number of which were killed, and preserved as specimens.

In the morning they were again on their route, and reached Little river, from which the station of the Methodist Mission is three-fourths of a mile distant. Here they were met by Mr. Perkins, who was waiting for his letters and some packages of goods the brigade had brought. Mr. Drayton accompanied Mr. Perkins to the mission, while the brigade moved on towards the Dalles. Mr. Daniel Lee, the principal of the mission, was found near the house, reaping his wheat.

At this station there are three families, those of the Rev. Mr. Lee, Mr. Perkins, and a lay member, who is a farmer. Their reception of Mr. Drayton was exceedingly kind.

The mission consists of two log and board houses, hewn, sawed, and built by themselves, with a small barn, and several out-houses. The buildings are situated on high ground, among scattered oaks, and immediately in the rear is an extensive wood of oaks and pines, with numerous sharp and jagged knolls and obelisk-looking pillars of conglomerate, interspersed among basaltic rocks: in front is an alluvial plain, having a gradual descent towards the river, and extending to the right and left. This contains about two thousand acres of good land, well supplied with springs, with Little river, and other smaller streams passing through it. The soil is made up of decomposed conglomerate, and in places shows a deep black loam. Around this tract the land is high, devoid of moisture, and covered with basaltic rocks or sand.

They here raise wheat and potatoes by irrigation: the latter grow in great perfection, and wheat yields twenty to thirty bushels to the acre. They had just gathered a crop of two hundred bushels from land which they irrigate by means of several fine streams near their houses. They might raise much more, if they were disposed. The summers here are much hotter than at Vancouver, and consequently drier; the spring rains cease here earlier, and the people harvest in June.

There are only a few Indians residing near the mission during the winter, and these are a very miserable set, who live in holes in the ground, not unlike a clay oven, in order to keep warm. They are too lazy to cut wood for their fires. The number that visit the Dalles during the fishing season, is about fifteen hundred: these are from all the country round, and are generally the outlawed of the different villages. The missionaries complain much of the insolent behaviour and of the thieving habits, both of the visiters, and those who reside permanently at the falls. They are, therefore, very desirous of having a few settlers near, that they may have some protection from this annoyance, as they are frequently under apprehension that their lives will be taken.

It is not to be expected that the missionaries could be able to make

much progress with such a set, and they of course feel somewhat discouraged, though they have succeeded in obtaining a moral influence over a few.

The river, between the Cascades and the Dalles, a distance of forty miles, has no rapids, and is navigable for vessels drawing twelve feet of water. It passes through high rocky banks of basalt.

The missionaries informed Mr. Drayton, that the salmon-fishery at the Dalles lasts six months, and that sturgeon are taken during the greater part of the year.

The mission is three miles from the Dalles. On Mr. Drayton reaching the lower point of the portage, he found Mr. Ogden encamped, and a boat-load of packages spread out to dry. It appeared that one of the boats had bilged in passing up, and required repairs. The place was luckily fitted for these operations, as it had but one entrance to protect against about a thousand Indians, on the look-out for whatever they could pick up, and who required the whole force of the brigade to keep them in check.

The Dalles is appropriately called the Billingsgate of Oregon. The diversity of dress among the men was greater even than in the crowds of natives I have described as seen in the Polynesian islands; but they lack the decency and care of their persons which the islanders exhibit. The women also go nearly naked, for they wear little else than what may be termed a breech-cloth, of buckskin, which is black and filthy with dirt; and some have a part of a blanket. The children go entirely naked, the boys wearing nothing but a small string round the body. It is only necessary to say that some forty or fifty live in a temporary hut, twenty feet by twelve, constructed of poles, mats, and cedar bark, to give an idea of the degree of their civilization.

FISHING-HUTS AT THE DALLES.

The men are engaged in fishing, and do nothing else. On the women falls all the work of skinning, cleaning, and drying the fish for their winter stores. As soon as the fish are caught, they are laid

for a few hours on the rocks, in the hot sun, which permits the skins to be taken off with greater ease; the flesh is then stripped off the bones, mashed and pounded as fine as possible; it is then spread out on mats, and placed upon frames to dry in the sun and wind, which effectually cures it; indeed, it is said that meat of any kind dried in this climate never becomes putrid. Three or four days are sufficient to dry a large matfull, four inches deep. The cured fish is then pounded into a long basket, which will contain about eighty pounds; put up in this way, if kept dry, it will keep for three years.

During the fishing season, the Indians live entirely on the heads, hearts, and offal of the salmon, which they string on sticks, and roast over a small fire.

The fishing here is very much after the manner of that at Willamette Falls, except that there is no necessity for planks to stand on, as there are great conveniences at the Dalles for pursuing this fishery. They use the hooks and spears, attached to long poles: both the hook and the spear are made to unship readily, and are attached to the pole by a line four feet below its upper end. If the hook were made permanently fast to the end of the pole, it would be liable to break, and the large fish would be much more difficult to take. The Indians are seen standing along the walls of the canals in great numbers, fishing, and it is not uncommon for them to take twenty to twenty-five salmon in an hour. When the river is at its greatest height, the water in the canals is about three feet below the top of the bank.

The Dalles is one of the most remarkable places upon the Columbia. The river is here compressed into a narrow channel, three hundred feet wide, and half a mile long; the walls are perpendicular, flat on the top, and composed of basalt; the river forms an elbow, being situated in an amphitheatre, extending several miles to the northwest, and closed in by a high basaltic wall. From appearances, one is led to conclude that in former times the river made a straight course over the whole; but, having the channel deeper, is now confined within the present limits. Mr. Drayton, on inquiry of an old Indian, through Mr. Ogden, learned that he believed that in the time of his forefathers they went up straight in their canoes. In order to illustrate this pass, Mr. Drayton made a careful diagram of it, which is represented in the wood-cut on the following page.

Besides the main channel, A, there are four or five other small canals, through which the water passes when the river is high: these are but a few feet across. The river falls about fifty feet in the distance of two miles, and the greatest rise between high and low water mark, is sixty-two feet. This great rise is caused by the accumulation

of water in the river above, which is dammed by this narrow pass, and is constantly increasing, until it backs the waters, and overflows many low grounds and islands above. The tremendous roar arising from the rushing of the river through this outlet, with the many whirlpools and eddies which it causes, may be more readily imagined than described.

The boat was repaired by the afternoon, and an express was despatched up the river to Wallawalla, in order to prepare the post for the reception of the brigade, and inform the gentleman who had charge of it that he would be required to move to the north with the brigade. The officers of the Company have but little time allowed them to attend to their comforts: so completely are they under the control of accident, that they are liable to be called upon at any moment. Their rights, however, are looked to as much as possible, and the great principle adopted as the incentive to action, is the advancement they may obtain by their own merit, through which alone they can get forward. In consequence of adhering to this principle, the Hudson Bay Company are always well served. The discipline that is preserved is the very best, and sits lightly upon all. Those who do not meet with advancement have some great fault in a trader's eyes. The enterprise and energy required to serve this Company well is of no ordinary kind, and few men exhibit more of both these qualities than those I met with in its employ.

On the morning of the 4th July, they began to pass the portage, which is a mile in length. It is very rugged, and the weather being exceedingly warm, many of the Indians were employed to transport articles on their horses, of which they have a large number. It required seventy men to transport the boats, which were carried over bottom upwards, the gunwale resting on the men's shoulders. By night all was safely transported, the boats newly gummed, and the encampment formed on a sandy beach. The sand, in consequence of the high wind, was blown about in great quantities, and every body and thing was literally covered with it.

From the high hills on the southern bank of the river, there is an extensive view of the country to the south. The distant part of this prospect was made up of rolling, barren, and arid hills. These hills, as well as the country nearer at hand, were covered with a natural hay or bunch-grass, which affords very nutritious food for cattle.

The missionaries have been stationed at the Dalles since 1838. The primary object of this mission is, in the first place, to give the Gospel to the Indians, and next to teach them such arts of civilization as shall enable them to improve their condition, and by degrees to become an enlightened community. There are many difficulties that the missionary has to contend with, in first coming among these people, none of which are greater than the want of knowledge of their true character. The missionaries, after a full opportunity of knowing these Indians, consider covetousness as their prevailing sin, which is exhibited in lying, dishonest traffic, gambling, and horse-racing. Of the latter they are extremely fond, and are continually desirous of engaging in it. This sport frequently produces contentions, which often end in bloodshed. Stealing prevails to an alarming extent: scarcely any thing that can be removed is safe. The missionaries have several times had their houses broken open, and their property more or less damaged. The stealing of horses in particular is very common, but after being broken down they are sometimes returned. There are but few chiefs to whom the appeal for redress can be made, and they can exercise but little control over such a lawless crew. Those who gather here are generally the very worst of the tribes around.

The number of Indians within the Dalles mission is reckoned at about two thousand; in but few of these, however, has any symptom of reform shown itself. They frequent the three great salmon-fisheries of the Columbia, the Dalles, Cascades, and Chutes, and a few were found at a salmon-fishery about twenty-five miles up the Chutes river.

The season for fishing salmon, which is the chief article of food in this country, lasts during five months, from May to September. The country also furnishes quantities of berries, nuts, roots, and game, consisting of bears, elk, and deer; but, owing to the improvidence of the native inhabitants, they are, notwithstanding this ample supply of articles of food, oftentimes on the verge of starvation.

After the fishing and trading season is over, they retire to their villages, and pass the rest of the year in inactivity, consuming the food supplied by the labours of the preceding summer; and as the season for fishing comes round, they again resort to the fisheries. This is the ordinary course of life among these Indians, whose dissi-

pation has been already spoken of, and will claim more attention hereafter.

Here again some others demanded their annual token from the brigade for past services.

The country about the Dalles is broken, and the missionaries report that this is the case for some miles around. There are, however, also some plains and table-lands, which are considered as very valuable, being well watered with springs and small streams; excellent for grazing, and well supplied with timber—oak and pine. The soil varies in quality, and portions of it are very rich. Garden vegetables succeed, but require irrigation. Potatoes also must be watered, by which mode of culture they succeed well. Corn and peas can be raised in sufficient quantities. Wheat produces about twenty-five bushels to the acre: this is not, however, on the best land. They sow in October and March, and harvest begins towards the end of June.

The climate is considered healthy; the atmosphere is dry, and there are no dews. From May till November but little rain falls, but in winter they have much rain and snow. The cold is seldom great, although during the winter preceding our arrival the thermometer fell to —18° Fahrenheit. The greatest heat experienced in summer was 100° in the shade; but, even after the hottest days, the nights are cool and pleasant.

At daylight, on the 3d July, the goods were all embarked. When they reached the Chutes, they again made a portage of their goods for a quarter of a mile, and in an hour and a half they were again on their way. During very high water, the fall, whence the place takes its name, is not visible, but when it is low, there is a fall of ten feet perpendicular, that occupies nearly the whole breadth of the river. It is impossible to pass this fall at low water; but when the river is swollen, boats shoot it with ease and safety. The Columbia, from the Chutes as far as John Day's river, is filled with rocks, which occasion dangerous rapids. The boats were, in consequence, tracked for the whole distance.

After passing the Dalles, an entirely new description of country is entered, for the line of woods extends no farther. The last tree stands on the south side of the river, and is named Ogden's Tree on our map: it is about six miles above the Dalles. The woods terminate at about the same distance from the coast in all parts of this region south of the parallel of 48° N.

The country between these places is decidedly volcanic, and the banks on either side of the river are rocky and high. In this part of

the country, it is very hot when there is no wind. Mr. Drayton had no thermometer, and therefore was unable to ascertain the exact degree of heat, but any metallic substance exposed to the sun for a short time could not be grasped in the hand without pain, and the men were almost exhausted with the heat.

There are a number of villages in this neighbourhood, and among them Wisham, mentioned in Irving's Astoria. This is situated on the left bank of the river, and its proper name is Niculuita; Wisham being the name of the old chief, long since dead. There are now in this village about forty good lodges, built of split boards, with a roof of cedar bark, as before described. The Indians that live here seem much superior to those of the other villages; they number four hundred regular inhabitants, who live, like the rest, upon salmon; but they appeared to have more comforts about them than any we had yet seen.

At Niculuita Mr. Drayton obtained a drawing of a child's head that had just been released from its bandages, in order to secure its flattened head. Both the parents showed great delight at the success they had met with in effecting this distortion. The wood-cuts give a correct idea of the child's appearance.

FRONT VIEW.

SIDE VIEW.

There were from fifty to one hundred Indians constantly following the brigade, and aiding the men. The price for half an hour's service was generally two leaves of tobacco, which was sought after with great eagerness. These Indians paint their faces with red and yellow clay. Their women seemed to be of more consequence than is usual among savages, and some of them even took command over the men.

At John Day's river great quantities of salmon are taken, and there are, in consequence, many temporary lodges here. Notwithstanding

this is a rocky region, there are vast quantities of fine sand deposited every where, which is brought down the river. On this the encampments are necessarily made; and the sand is exceedingly dry and hot, which renders the camping disagreeable. There are few places more uncomfortable; for a basaltic wall rises nine hundred or a thousand feet within two hundred yards of the camp, which reflects the sun's rays down upon the beach of white sand, rendering the atmosphere almost insupportable. To give some idea of the heat, Mr. Drayton found it uncomfortably hot to sit down upon the rocks an hour after the sun had set.

One of their amusements at the time of encamping was a rattlesnake hunt, in which several large ones were killed.

The brigade, as usual, set out early, and with the sun there arose a fine breeze, which carried them briskly onwards. About eight miles above their encampment they came to the Hieroglyphic Rocks. These are about twenty feet high, and on them are supposed to be recorded the deeds of some former tribe. They passed so quickly that Mr. Drayton could make only two hasty sketches of them; and it is to be regretted that they were not sufficiently perfect to allow of their being given in this place.

After passing John Day's river, the country becomes much lower and more arid, and the current comparatively less. The weather was exceedingly hot, and the drifting sands were in greater quantities than before, so much so that whole islands were passed entirely composed of the sand. They now arrived at the long reach, just below Grand Island; the country becoming sandy and so flat as to give a view of the Grand Rapid Hills. It has the appearance of having been, at no very remote period, the bed of an extensive lake. Here the voyageurs began to be relieved from their toil at the pole, which they exchanged for the tow-line and oar, and the Indians departed the moment their services were no longer wanted. The distance made this day was fifty-seven miles, for which they were indebted to the breeze. The day before, they made only sixteen miles.

While passing close along the banks, they met with numerous pin-tailed grouse, so tame as to allow the boats to approach within a few feet of them before they would fly.

At their encampment, Mr. Drayton found a large burying-place, from which he was desirous of getting a skull; but, to the surprise of the party, several Indians made their appearance and prevented it. The corpses were placed above ground, in their clothing, and then sewed up in a skin or blanket; and the personal property of each deceased individual was placed near the body: over all were laid a

few boards, of native construction, placed as a kind of shed to protect them from the weather.

All along this river, from the Dalles up, there is not a piece of wood growing, and except occasionally a drift log, there is nothing larger than a splinter to be found. All the wood used for cooking is bought from the Indians, who will follow the brigade for many miles with a long pole or piece of a log, which they sell for a small piece of tobacco. The Indians also brought for sale several hares, which were large and of extremely fine flavour.

The country continues to be, as far as can be seen on every side, a barren and sterile waste, covered with a white sand mixed with rounded and washed pebbles. All that it produces is a little grass, some wood, and a species of small Cactus, filled with long white spines, so hard and sharp that if trodden upon they will penetrate the leather of a boot.

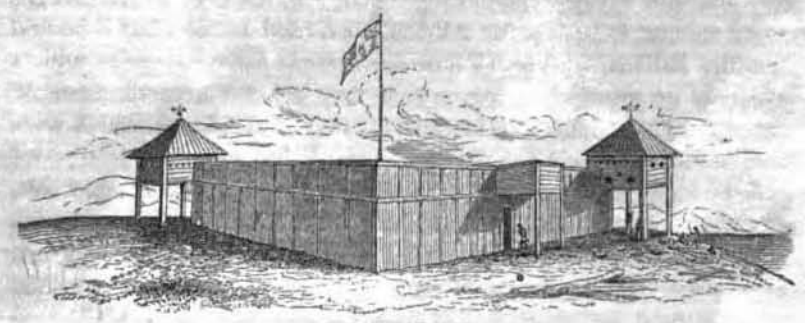
On the 6th of July the brigade reached the foot of the Grand Rapids, up which the boats were tracked. They afterwards passed along the foot of Grand Rapid Hills, which are composed of basalt, old lava, and scoriæ. These hills are steep on the river side, and are fast crumbling away and falling into the stream.

Eighteen miles below Wallawalla they passed the Windmill Rock, about which are a number of curious basaltic peaks. On approaching Wallawalla the scenery becomes grand: the country is broken into volcanic peaks, forming many fantastic shapes, resembling figures and colossal heads: many of them are seen either insulated or in groups; some of them are known under the name of the Nine-pins. Through this pass of volcanic rocks the wind rushes with great violence in summer, to supply the rarefied portion above. The current had increased very considerably: it often became necessary for the voyageurs to take a pipe, or in other words, a rest. When the brigade was in sight from the fort, the Company's flag was hoisted. Before arriving there, and within a mile and a half of it, the country becomes again flat, and rises very little above the river, when the water is high. The ground is composed of pebbles and drifting sand for several miles to the east and to the north, with little or no soil, and nothing grows on it but a few spears of bunch-grass, and wormwood.

The brigade reached the fort at sunset, when they were received by Mr. M'Lean, who was in temporary charge of the post: and who reported himself ready to proceed with his Indian wife and children with Mr. Ogden; and Mr. M'Kinley took charge of Fort Wallawalla.

Fort Wallawalla is about two hundred feet square, and is built of pickets, with a gallery or staging on the inside, whence the pickets

may be looked over. It has two bastions, one on the southwest and the other on the northeast. On the inside are several buildings, constructed of logs and mud; one of these is the Indian store: the whole



FORT WALLAWALLA.

is covered with sand and dust, which is blown about in vast quantities. The climate is hot; and every thing about the fort seemed so dry, that it appeared as if a single spark would ignite the whole and reduce it to ashes.

The party under Lieutenant Johnson had passed by about a week previously, on their return to Nisqually.

At all the principal stopping-places, one or two old Indians would present themselves to Mr. Ogden, to demand their annual present for services rendered him and the Company.

Many years back, Mr. Ogden, while on his route, was attacked at the place where the fort stands, by the Wallawalla tribe, and was obliged to take refuge on the island near the fort, where he made a stand and completely routed the Indians. This occurrence took place twenty-three years before, and was the cause of this post being occupied; since which time, no attack has been made.

This will give some idea of the dangers the officers and men of the Hudson Bay Company have to encounter; and although it is now safe on the Columbia river, yet there are many parts where they are still subject to these attacks: the voyageurs have a lot of toil and deprivation, yet few men are to be found so cheerful.

Mr. Ogden informed me, that the most experienced voyageur is taken as a pilot for the brigade, and he is the bowman of the leading boat; which is looked upon as a station of great trust and honour. Each boat has also its bowman, who is considered the first officer and responsible man; the safety of the boat, in descending rapids particularly, depends upon him and the padroon, who steers the boat. They both use long and large blade-paddles; and it is surprising how much

power the two can exert over the direction of the boat. These men, from long training, become very expert, and acquire a coolness and disregard of danger that claim admiration, and astonishes those who are unused to such scenes.

To all appearance, there is seldom to be found a more laborious set of men; nor one so willing, particularly when their remuneration of no more than seventeen pounds sterling a year, and the fare they receive, are considered. The latter would be considered with us incapable of supporting any human being. It consists of coarse unbolted bread, dried salmon, fat (tallow), and dried peas. I am satisfied that no American would submit to such food: the Canadian and Iroquois Indians use it without murmuring, except to strangers, to whom they complain much of their scanty pay and food. The discipline is strict, and of an arbitrary kind; yet they do not find fault with it. In Appendix XV., will be found one of the agreements of the Hudson Bay Company. Very few of those who embark or join this Company's service ever leave the part of the country they have been employed in; for after the expiration of the first five years, they usually enlist for three more. This service of eight years in a life of so much adventure and hazard, attaches them to it, and they generally continue until they become old men; when, being married, and having families by Indian women, they retire under the auspices of the Company, to some small farm, either on the Red or Columbia rivers. There is no allowance stipulated for their wives or children; but one is usually made, if they have been useful. If a man dies, leaving a family, although the Company is not under any obligation to provide for them, they are generally taken care of. The officers of the Company are particularly strict in preventing its servants from deserting their wives; and none can abandon them, without much secresy and cunning. In cases of this sort, the individual is arrested and kept under restraint until he binds himself with security not to desert his family. The chief officers of the Company hold the power of magistrates over their own people; and are bound to send fugitives or criminals back to Canada for trial, where the courts take cognizance of the offences. This perhaps is as salutary and effectual a preventive against crime, as could be found, even if the courts were at hand; for whether innocent or guilty, the individual must suffer great loss by being dragged from the little property he possesses. The community of old voyageurs, settled in Oregon, are thus constrained to keep a strict watch upon their behaviour; and, although perhaps against their inclinations, are obliged to conform to the wishes of those whose employ they have left.

The brigade, after remaining at Wallawalla till the 8th, took their departure. In taking leave of Mr. Ogden, I must express the great indebtedness I am under, for his attentions and kindness to Mr. Drayton, as well as for the facility he offered him for obtaining information during their progress up the Columbia. I am also under obligations to him for much interesting information respecting this country, which he gave without hesitation or reserve. He was anxious that Mr. Drayton should accompany him to Okonagan; but as this route had just been traversed by another party, it would have been a waste of the short time he had to spend about Wallawalla. Mr. Ogden is a general favourite; and there is so much hilarity, and such a fund of amusement about him, that one is extremely fortunate to fall into his company.

After the departure of the brigade, Mr. Drayton set out to visit Dr. Whitman, in company with Mr. M'Lean, who was to proceed to Okonagan with horses, to join Mr. Ogden. They rode about twenty miles before dark, and passed over some of the pastures of the horses belonging to the Company. An alluvial bank, one hundred feet in height, was pointed out, over which the wolves had driven part of a band of the horses of the Company, by surrounding them just before dark. This took place some months before, and the horses were killed and eaten by these voracious animals. The wolves are very numerous in this country, and exceedingly troublesome.

The country passed over on the banks of the Wallawalla, and within half a mile of it, was green and fertile. This will also apply to the banks of the small tributaries falling into the Wallawalla. To the north and south are extensive prairies, covered with the natural hay of the country, on which the cattle feed; here these grasses spring up in the early spring rains, grow luxuriantly, and are afterwards converted into hay, by the great heat of the month of July. Thus dried, they retain all their juices. Of this hay the cattle are exceedingly fond, and prefer it even to the young grass of the meadows bordering the stream.

The party reached the mission about dark, and were welcomed by Dr. Whitman and Mr. and Mrs. Gray, of the American Board of Missions. This station was established in 1837, with three others, and is known by the name of Waiilaptu. The second station, called Lapwai (clear water), is at the mouth of the Kooskooskee, under the Rev. Mr. Spalding. The third was about sixty miles up that river, and was called Kamia, where the Rev. Mr. Smith was stationed for two years; finding, however, that he had no Indians to teach, or within reach of his station, he abandoned it. The fourth, called Chimikaine,

is near the river Spokane, under the direction of Messrs. Eels and Walker, sixty miles south of Colville.

At Waiilaptu there are two houses, each of one story, built of adobes, with mud roofs, to insure a cooler habitation in summer. There are also a small saw-mill and some grist-mills at this place, moved by water. All the premises look very comfortable. They have a fine kitchen-garden, in which grow all the vegetables raised in the United States, and several kinds of fine melons. The wheat, some of which stood seven feet high, was in full head, and nearly ripe; Indian corn was in tassel, and some of it measured nine feet in height. They will reap this year about three hundred bushels of wheat, with a quantity of corn and potatoes. The soil, in the vicinity of the small streams, is a rich black loam, and very deep. The land fit for cultivation along these streams does not, however, amount to more than ten thousand acres. This quantity is susceptible of irrigation, and in consequence can be made to yield most luxuriant crops. In many parts of it, a natural irrigation seems to take place, owing to the numerous bends of the small streams, which almost convert portions of the land into islands. These streams take their rise in the Blue Mountains, about forty miles east of Wallawalla, and are never known to fail. The climate is very dry, as it seldom rains for seven or eight months in the year. During the greater part of this time, the country, forty miles north and south of this strip, has an arid appearance. There are large herds of horses owned by the Indians, that find excellent pasturage in the natural hay on its surface.

There is a vast quantity and profusion of edible berries on the banks of the streams above spoken of, consisting of the service-berry, two kinds of currants, whortleberry, and wild gooseberries: these the Indians gather in large quantities, for their winter supplies.

At the time of Mr. Drayton's visit, there were at the mission only fourteen indians, including men, women, and children. Those who usually reside here had gone to the Grande Ronde to trade, a distance of twenty-five miles.

The Grande Ronde is a plain or mountain prairie, surrounded by high basaltic walls. This is called by the Indians, "Karpkarp," which is translated into Balm of Gilead. Its direction from Wallawalla is east-southeast, and the road to the United States passes through it. It is fifteen miles long, by twelve wide; and is the place where the Cayuse, Nez Percé, and Wallawalla Indians meet to trade with the Snakes or Shoshones, for roots, skin lodges, elk and buffalo meat, in exchange for salmon and horses.

Mr. Drayton met with an old Indian at Waiilaptu, who was pointed

out as the man who took the first flag that was ever seen in the country to the Grande Ronde, as the emblem of peace. Lewis and Clarke, when in this country, presented an American flag to the Cayuse tribe, calling it a flag of peace; this tribe, in alliance with the Wallawallas, had up to that time been always at war with the Shoshones or Snakes. After it became known among the Snakes that such a flag existed, a party of Cayuse and Wallawallas took the flag and planted it at the Grande Ronde, the old man above spoken of being the bearer. The result has been, that these two tribes have ever since been at peace with the Snakes, and all three have met annually in this place to trade. Dr. Whitman confirmed the old man's statement from other evidence he had received. The Grande Ronde is likewise resorted to for the large quantities of cammass-root that grow there, which constitutes, as I have before remarked, a favourite food with all the Indians.

These missionaries live quite comfortably, and seem contented; they are, however, not free from apprehension of Indian depredations. Dr. Whitman, being an unusually large and athletic man, is held in much respect by the Indians, and they have made use of his services as a physician, which does not seem to carry with it so much danger here, as among the tribes in the lower country, or farther north.

These missionaries have quite a number of cattle and horses, which require little or no attention, there being an abundance of hay and grass. The price of a good horse is twenty dollars.

This district is capable of supporting a vast number of cattle. One Cayuse chief has more than a thousand horses on these feeding grounds.

The winters are of about three months' duration, and snow lasts only a short time; the grass indeed grows all winter. A better idea of the climate here may be formed from the fact, that Mr. M'Kinley, of the Hudson Bay Company, who passed from the Snake country across the Blue Mountains in January, 1841, found the snow on the mountains five and six feet deep, and the weather very cold; but when he descended to these plains the next day, the weather was warm and pleasant, the grass green, and many flowers in bloom.

On the Wallawalla river trees are again met with: they consist of the poplar, willow, birch, and alder. The poplar grows to the height of one hundred feet, and has a diameter near the base of two and a half feet.

As respects the success of the missionary labours, it is very small here. The Indians are disposed to wander, and seldom continue more than three or four months in the same place. After they return from the Grande Ronde, which is in July, they remain for three or four

months, and then move off to the north and east to hunt buffalo. After their return from the buffalo-hunt, they are again stationary for a short time.

Dr. Whitman has one hundred and twenty-four on his rolls, male and female, that receive instruction in the course of the year. He preaches to them on the Sabbath, when the Indians are on the Wallawalla river.

The school consists of about twenty-five scholars daily, and there appears some little disposition to improve in these Indians. The great aim of the missionaries is to teach them that they may obtain a sufficient quantity of food by cultivating the ground. Many families of Indians now have patches of wheat, corn, and potatoes, growing well, and a number of these are to be seen near the Mission farm.

The Indians have learned the necessity of irrigating their crops, by finding that Dr. Whitman's succeeded better than their own. They therefore desired to take some of the water from his trenches instead of making new ones of their own, which he very naturally refused. They then dug trenches for themselves, and stopped up the Doctor's. This had well-nigh produced much difficulty; but finally they were made to understand that there was enough water for both, and they now use it with as much success as the missionaries.

There is much small game in this part of the country, which is easily obtained with a gun, or by snares. The most numerous are the grouse, curlew, and two species of hare.

In company with Mr. Gray, Mr. Drayton visited the Blue Mountains. Before reaching the foot of the mountains, they passed through large bands of horses, belonging to the Cayuse Indians; the soil became better, being of a red colour, and formed of decomposed scoria. Much scoria is here seen in every direction, and the grass in such places, from receiving more moisture, is more luxuriant. Mr. Drayton ascended up as far as the snow-line, but had not the means of ascertaining his altitude; it was, however, from my observations, about five thousand six hundred feet. They here found the forest of pines, and the temperature was quite low. From this point the Wallawalla, with its numerous branches, could be seen threading its way through the plains beneath, to unite itself with the Columbia river, yet more distant.

They returned the next day to Fort Wallawalla.

There seems to be a peculiarity about the climate at Wallawalla, not readily to be accounted for. It has been stated above that little winter weather is experienced there, and that this mildness is owing to the hot winds of the south, which sweep along from the extensive sandy