

almost imperceptible; and the descent, although much more rapid, neither steep nor difficult. From the Cache to the first opening out of the valley of the Thompson, about eighty miles north of Kamloops, the only route lies along that river, running through a succession of narrow gorges, shut in on each side by lofty and inaccessible mountains. The whole of this portion is obstructed by growing and fallen timber of the largest size; but the fact of our being able to bring horses through without any previous track being cut open, proves sufficiently that there are no serious obstacles in the way of an engineer. No great ascents or descents occur, the bottom of the ravine being generally level, except where the transverse ranges of hills come down close to the water's edge. Many of these are indeed rocky, but consist generally of broken fragments of no great size; no bluffs of solid rock appear until the last forty miles, where the country is generally open, and otherwise little obstructed. The flooding of the river by the melted snows of the mountains, does not interfere with the passage along the valley, we having traversed it in the middle of the summer, when the waters were at the highest. A road might, possibly, be made more direct to Cariboo than by continuing on to Kamloops, by following the north-west branch of the North River, which comes in about sixty miles south of Tête Jaune's Cache, or the Cance River, some fifteen miles below that place; but, from the rugged nature of the country to the west, such a road could only be made by great labour and outlay. An easier line would, I apprehend, be from the junction of a small river which flows into the Thompson about twenty miles north of the Clearwater, or about eighty north of Kamloops. This stream, the Indians informed us, came from the Cariboo Lake, and passes through a tolerably open region. The most serious difficulty to the adoption of a route by Jasper House, would be the want of pasturage for cattle. The patches of open are few on the eastern side, rather larger and more numerous within the mountains, but, after leaving the Cache, on the western side the forest is unbroken