

to which they had now ascended was certainly very great. They had ascended a river of a very rapid current for more than 3000 miles; and the height of the spot where they left their canoes, cannot certainly be estimated at less than 6000 feet. They had now risen considerably above this height; and, accordingly, it is said, that on the 21st of August the weather was so cold that the water which stood in vessels exposed to the air, was frozen to the depth of a quarter of an inch in the vessels: the ink froze in the pen, and the low grounds were white with hoar frost, though the day afterwards proved extremely warm.

When they embarked in their canoes on the Kooskooskee, they had a succession of the most dangerous rapids to encounter. The Indians used to run along the tops of the rocks that overhang the river, curious to witness the efforts of the white men, who had courage and skill enough to extricate themselves from dangers that followed in such quick succession.

The waters of the Kooskooskee are clear as crystal; and, where that river joins Lewis River, a large branch of the Columbia, which rises in the same chain of mountains, it is 150 yards wide. Where Lewis River joins the Columbia, it is 575 yards wide, the Columbia itself 960; though soon after the junction, it expands to the width of from one to three miles. From the point of junction, the country is a continued plain, with no trees, and nothing but a few willow bushes. The latitude is in 46 deg. 13 min. 13 sec. The rapids still continued; and there were even falls, of considerable pitch, over which this vast body of waters was poured, and where the canoes, of course, must be carried over dry land. A most singular rapid succeeds, when the whole of the Columbia is forced through a narrow channel no more than 45 yards wide. They ventured, nevertheless, in their canoes, down this tremendous rapid, and escaped in safety. The river after this becomes smooth; they describe the valley through which it runs as a fertile and delightful country, shaded by thick groves of tall timber, watered by small ponds, on both sides of the river; the soil rich, and capable of any species of culture. While sailing down this part of the river, they saw a high mountain on their right, the top covered with snow, which they had seen before as they were descending the Rocky Mountains, at the distance of 150 miles, and were now satisfied

that it was the St. Helens of Vancouver; it is about 100 miles east from the mouth of the Columbia, and is, no doubt, of great height.

On the 7th of November, they first got sight of the ocean, the object of all their labours, and which they now felt as the reward of all their anxieties. The view raised their spirits; and they were by and by farther cheered by the roar of the distant breakers. The spot which they selected for their winter quarters, and where they established their camp, was in full view of the sea, about seven miles distant, in lat. 46 deg. 19 min. and on the south bank of the river.— They found that this place is much frequented by ships, both British and American, who come, during the summer, to buy furs of the natives. They found the natives, of consequence, not strangers to white men, and in possession of many little articles of show, and particularly of blue beads, which they prefer to every other thing, and use as money or the common medium of exchange in their dealings with one another. They are perfectly initiated, too, in the art and cunning inseparable from traffic in its first stage, and in its lowest branches. In general, however, all the tribes on this side the mountains are of a more mild and gentle character than those on the eastern side. Is this at all connected with their living less on flesh than the latter, and more on fish and vegetables? In many other respects they are very different from one another: some very honest, others of a thievish disposition; some tall and handsome, and others ill-shaped and dwarfish. Their languages are also very different, so that the neighbouring tribes could not always converse with one another. On this account, the intercourse between the American party and the natives was often carried on with great difficulty.

It seems not unlikely that a few years will place an American colony somewhere about the mouth of the Columbia; for the States are no less ambitious of extending their territory than the country from which they sprang, although they have already more than they are able to occupy.

The return of the party across the mountains, and southward to Fort Louis on the Mississippi, was attended with many difficulties, but affords no circumstance of peculiar importance.

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