

coming to see their country. Several of the chiefs replied to me that they had heard that there were towards the rising sun good folks who loved God. They were now glad that they could see one, and that they had it in their hearts to come and do them good. "When you come to teach us," they added, "we will do as you tell us." They wanted I should tell them when we would build a house. They said they would do all they could do to help us. I said to them I could not tell when we should build a house, but was going to look farther in their country. This band speak the Flat Head language and usually go to hunt the buffalo with that tribe. The probability is that our mission to the Flat Heads will include this band, as well as the Spokans.

7. Northeast of this band, and along the western range of the Rocky Mountains, on and north of the Columbia river, is a band known by the name of Cootenas, numbering about 700 families. This band is generally on friendly terms with both the Flat Heads and the Black Feet. Their intercourse with the latter is such that a station comprising, say five or six families, in a few years might effect a reconciliation between these two deadly foes to each other, and save from war and death the last remains of that once numerous and best of tribes, the Flat Heads. Their language is somewhat different from the Flat Head as well as that of the Black Feet, though they understand both with little difficulty.

8. We come now to the Flat Heads. They are situated on Clark's river, in latitude 48°, longitude 113° or 114°. In their wanderings after buffalo they come over to the head waters of the Missouri; pass from thence to the head of Lewis' or Snake river, and thence return to Clark's river. I met them in May, and made known to them our object in coming to their country. They seemed to be overjoyed at the prospect of having some one to come and teach them. They immediately pointed out the place where they wished us to build a house, and where they wished to locate themselves. This place, however, it will not be safe at present to occupy as a station, being too much exposed to the wandering war parties of Black Feet. The delegation from this band to obtain teachers, which accompanied me on my return, were murdered on the way by a band of Sioux.

9. The next tribe coming east are the Black Feet. I had a personal conversa-

tion and acquaintance with the trader who resides among them, and also with one of their principal chiefs, a half-breed. From the latter I received many interesting facts relative to the character and disposition of this tribe, which is regarded as the most warlike and treacherous on our continent. In my conversation with this chief I made several inquiries with regard to the safety of persons travelling with these tribes; and also made known to him our object in coming to the country. He told me that a person going with their villages would be perfectly safe, and every thing he had would be treated with the utmost kindness. The trader made the same remark to me. When the chief told the people of his tribe about our coming to live with the Nez Perces and Flat Heads, they immediately told him to ask us to come and live with them and teach them. This tribe is divided into five bands, having different names. Three of these bands speak the same language. The others speak a different dialect. Two of the bands seem to be mild and disposed to remain at peace as far as they are permitted. Two of the bands came and smoked the pipe of peace with the Flat Heads, to whom they have long been inveterate enemies, while I was there. How long they will keep the peace is unknown. Eight men might, in the course of a few years, by going with these bands, effect an entire change in their warlike disposition, and render the traveling in the mountains comparatively safe. The tribe is sufficiently numerous to call for at least ten families, as soon as their country can be explored. They number, as I am told, about 3,400 families, averaging from eight to ten persons to the family or lodge. In case you cannot find any who are willing to commence the exploring of the Black-Foot country, on account of danger, I am willing to be one of two, four, six, or eight persons to go among them. Their language, from hearing it spoken, is far easier to learn than the Flat Head, and equally easy with the Nez Perces. I think, with a good measure of perseverance, any person of common capacity could acquire a knowledge of the language in one year.

10. The next tribe we met are the Eutaws. They properly belong to the Spanish or Mexican territory. They are a numerous and well disposed tribe, subsisting principally on roots and some small game, that is found extremely scarce in the country. They range south of Snake river, and in the vicinity of the