

facilities for intercommunication with its different points ; the line of travel is level and easy, and it has in consequence, secured throughout its course, a row of settlements which in a few years will extend into a continuous chain.

After you leave Jarvis's settlement, you proceed up the river for about thirty miles, when you come to the principal town of Oregon. This is situated on the eastern bank of the Willamette, and is ninety-four miles from the Columbia river. It was first formed in 1834, by a party of American missionaries, under the direction of Messrs. Lee, Shepherd, and others, and its vicinity had, even previous to that period, been selected by several retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. It has, ever since the above period, been the seat of the Methodist Episcopal mission, and has now become the head quarters of the operations of the district. Passing the period of my first visit to it, I will take this opportunity to state that there are at the present moment, (March, 1844,) at this place, over two hundred families, and that there are in the whole valley of the Willamette, more than a thousand citizens of the United States. A church, a hospital, an academy, mills, workshops, comfortable dwellings, a herd of five thousand head of cattle, and all the accompaniments of civilization and refinement are to be found here, and any man who can be content to live beyond the limits of a densely populated city, can find at this place all the comforts and enjoyments which a rational being, uncorrupted by false appetites, can crave.

There are a large number of Indians about this settlement and valley, who were under the care of the missionaries, and who perform much of the servile labor of the mission establishment. Indeed they are employed the same way by these religious establishments, throughout the territory, as they are by the Hudson's Bay Company ; so if there is anything which smacks of slavery in the one case, it necessarily follows in the other.

There is another, and pretty numerous branch of population growing up here, which cannot be passed without notice. This is the class of half breeds, the issue of the Indian women, who are either married to, or fall otherwise in the hands of the careless trapper, or the indifferent woodsman. As there is a great scarcity of white women in this territory, this state of things naturally results, and the consequence will be, that