

CHAPTER XII

FROM ASTORIA TO SPOKANE HOUSE

Preparations for return journey—Leave Astoria—Hostility of the Natives—A prophetess—Attack by the natives—Arrive in the country of friendly Indians—More trouble with Indians—Basalt rocks—Island sacred to the dead—Mussel Rapid—Rattle snakes—Fang teeth of the rattle snakes—Collecting poison from the rattle snakes—Rattle snake's enemy—Uses of the rattle snakes—Reach junction of the Shawpatin River—Camp with Shawpatin Tribe—Pay the Interpreter and leave the Shawpatin Camp—Abandon canoes and proceed on horseback—Natives along the Columbia River—Arrive at Spokane House.

HAVING procured a few Articles to assist me in buying provisions, for which I gave my note, and having found the Latitude of Astoria to be $46^{\circ}.13'.56''$ North, the Longitude $123^{\circ}.36'.16''$ West of Greenwich, and the Variation 20 degrees East; we prepared for our return up the River. With M^r McDougall I exchanged a Man, by the name of Michel Boulard,¹ well versed in Indian affairs, but weak for the hard labor of ascending the River, for a powerful well made Sandwich Islander, (whom we named Coxe,² from his resemblance to a seaman of that name;) he

¹ Boulard had been with Thompson for several years, and his name appears at many places in his journals.

² Alexander Ross says this exchange of men did not take place until July 31, farther up the river, and that "Cox was looked upon by Mr. Thompson as a prodigy of wit and humour." Cox seems to have been back at Astoria again in April, 1814 (see Coues, *New Light*, p. 868). [T. C. E.]