

overflow their banks and flood the country for an immense distance during the winter and spring freshets render the land journey to the Cowlitz River difficult, and during the season almost impracticable.

There are a few families settled on plains on this route, and the Americans are forcing themselves as far north as Puget's Sound. During our travels we met five families on their route to the prairies in that vicinity.

There is a settlement of about 90 Canadian families on the Cowlitz River, where the Puget's Sound Company have about 1,000 acres of ground under cultivation.

This farm is situated about 35 miles from the Columbia.

The course of the Cowlitz is rapid, and in high water dangerous, but presenting no obstacles that are not overcome by the energy and perseverance of the Canadian boatmen.

A small establishment has been formed at the mouth of the Cowlitz River as a store for wheat, &c., which the Hudson's Bay Company export in large quantities to the Russian settlement at Silka and to the Sandwich Islands.

The accompanying account of the population of the Indian tribes has been compiled with great care from the best authorities we could obtain, and from the trading lists lent us by the kindness of the gentlemen in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The Indians of Puget's Sound and the Straits of De Fuca, also those further to the north, appear to be more numerous than those of the interior, and cultivate large quantities of potatoes, &c. for their own use, and to barter with the vessels frequenting the coast.

They are not so cleanly as the Indians of the prairies, nor are they so brave or warlike; many of the latter tribes are a very fine race of men, and possess large herds of cattle and immense numbers of horses.

In the neighbourhood of Walla-Walla individual Indians were pointed out to us who owned more than 1,000 horses.

Slavery is common with all the tribes, and he who possesses most slaves and the largest number of horses is considered the greatest chief.

The Indians of the North are sometimes troublesome, but those of the Columbia are a quiet, inoffensive, but very superstitious race. To this last cause may be traced their quarrels with the white man and with one another.

They are well armed with rifles, muskets, &c., but, from policy, they are much stinted by the Hudson's Bay Company in ammunition.

The Indian tribes do not remain upon the same ground during the whole year. In the summer they resort to the principal rivers and the sea-coast, where they take and lay by large quantities of salmon, &c., for their winter consumption, retiring to the smaller rivers of the interior during the cold season.

Neither the Roman Catholic nor Methodist missionaries have done much towards reclaiming the Indian population, who are an idle, dissolute race, and very few of them can be induced to change their mode of life, or cultivate more than will absolutely keep them from starvation.

The total abolition of the sale of intoxicating liquors has done much for the good of the whole community, white population as well as Indian; and so long as this abstinence (which can hardly be called voluntary) continues, the country will prosper. When this prohibition is withdrawn, and the intercourse with the world thrown open, such is the character of the dissolute and only partially reformed American and Canadian settlers, that every evil must be anticipated, and the unfortunate Indian will be the first to suffer.