

and other lumber, white oak ship timber, spruce knees and spars, and white ash oars. In return, the company receive provisions, salt, sugar, molasses, spirits, &c. They obtain beef cattle from California, at three dollars per head, and pay for them in lumber, at sixty to one hundred dollars per M.

Some notion of the amount of lumber exported may be obtained from the fact that the vessel which bore me from Oregon to the Sandwich islands brought out the complement of a quantity of boards contracted for at the price of twenty thousand dollars.

The value of flour at the Russian settlements varied from fifteen to twenty dollars per barrel. In more southerly markets, salmon were worth twenty dollars per barrel, and sixty dollars per M was the minimum price of merchantable boards.

I arrived at Vancouver unwell; and was hospitably welcomed by Mr. McLaughlin, the chief factor. Medical aid was rendered me; a house in the village was furnished for my use, and all my physical wants were supplied; but I was forbidden to enter the fort! Before I had been long in the country, I learned that the factor and his agents were preparing, in every artful way, to render my abode there uncomfortable and unsafe. The most preposterous calumnies and slanders were set on foot in regard to my character, conduct, and designs. All my movements were watched, and, in some instances, I was threatened with violence, by persons who had been instigated, as I had reason to believe, by the Company. Had I been willing to place myself under the control and direction of the Company, all would have been peace; but so long as I was resolved to act independently, as an American on American soil, seeking authentic information, for general diffusion, and pursuing the avowed purpose of opening the trade of the territory to general competition, and the wealth of the country to general participation and enjoyment, so long was I an object of dread and dislike to the grasping monopolists of the Hudson's Bay Company.

My abode in Oregon was thus rendered very disagreeable. The loss of my property on the route had obliged me to vary my original plans, and limit my enterprise to such an examination of the country as would enable me to enlighten the American public on my return to the United States. I remained, therefore, in Oregon no longer than was needful to satisfy myself on the desired points of inquiry; and so long as I did remain, I was treated very much like a prisoner of war, although not subjected to actual confinement.

When I left the Oregon country, I took passage in the brig Dryad, Captain Keplin, for the Sandwich islands.

The petition recently presented to the Senate of the United States, signed by residents of Oregon, will fortify my views in regard to the necessity for some degree of protection on the part of Government over the people of that territory.

I come now, in conclusion, to say something of the Indians of Oregon.

This unfortunate race of men, as on the eastern so on the western shore of America, perish and pass away at the approach of white men, like those who are swept off by pestilence. By the accounts of voyagers and travellers who visited Oregon 30 or 40 years ago, it is made evident that the Indian population was then very numerous. But of their hundred tribes, sovereign and subordinate, including probably one hundred and fifty thousand souls, but a small fraction now remains.

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