

about fifty fathoms in length; they had also dipping Nets with strong hoops, and about five feet in depth. Their Canoes, as usual with all the Tribes, [were] made of the hollow Trees drifted down the River: I measured one of them thirty six feet in length, by three feet in width; We staid about an hour with them smoking and talking, but they had no information to give us: proceeding seven miles we put ashore at two Lodges containing eighty families; with whom we staid two hours; after smoking had commenced they made us a present of three Salmon, for which I paid two feet of tobacco. They then gave us a Dance to their singing, superior to any dance, and the Song more varied in the notes, to which the dancers kept time with an easy graceful step, for which all the Natives are remarkable, the youth of each sex formed a separate curved line, the elderly people behind them, the dancing and singing were regulated by an old Chief, and ended by a short prayer for safe return. On enquiring why they always preferred the curved, to the straight, line in dancing, the answer was, that the curved line gave them the pleasure of seeing each other, and that every one behaved well, which a straight line did not allow; in none of their dances that I have seen do they intermix with each other, but each person keeps steady to the first place: slowly dancing a few steps forward, and backwards without any change of the body. At the end of each dance, which may last a few minutes, they sat down, in doing so, both sexes with an easy motion sunk to the ground, none of us could do the same, we were too stiff. After leaving these friendly people we went to two men who were seining Salmon, and bought two fish. Shortly after 6 PM we put up, very much fatigued with a heavy gale of head wind which drifted the sand like dust.¹

¹ This camp was, as nearly as can be determined, on the north bank of the river opposite the John Day river and below what are now known as the Indian Rapids. It was here that Thompson first heard from the Indians "news of the American ship's arrival." [T. C. E.]