

from the journals of voyaging and scientific parties of exploration, by various routes, through that region.

For a small party of ten to fifteen persons hastily gotten up, the Stevens route appears to be the least favorable of the three routes not only as to distance, but also as to the features of the country, character and number of the Indian tribes through which they would unavoidably have to pass. The distance from St. Paul to Vancouver on the Columbia is 1,864 miles, to Seattle, a port on the east side of Puget Sound, by the Columbia route, two thousand twenty-five miles, 1,152 miles of which is through an uncultivable region, affording but little game, at uncertain seasons, and at a late season not a sufficiency of grass for animals. We will then dispose of this route, with the remark that however practicable or desirable it may be—as being all within our own boundary—for a large and strong party, leaving St. Paul not later than the 15th of May, it cannot be recommended for a small party starting from here at a late season. We have then the choice of the two routes by the Saskatchewan, and to give something like a correct idea of that region, and the features of the routes usually travelled by the voyageurs of the Hudson Bay Company, I will quote from the Journal of an expedition by the Columbia, up that river by its north branch, thence to the tributaries of the Saskatchewan, and down that stream and the valley by water, and by land to Bas de la Riviere, a day's journey from Fort Garry, Red River Settlement.

The party started on the 4th of April, from near the mouth of the Columbia, which they ascended in canoes. On the 10th of May they first got sight of the Rocky Mountains, and sent forward a party to procure horses and supplies from the east side. From the west base of the mountains they travelled on foot, carrying packs of fifty pounds each, including their provisions, which consisted of pounded corn brought from the Columbia, and pemmican, found in a *cache*. Before, however, they commenced their foot march, and after leaving the Columbia, they ascended for some distance a small stream called Canoe River, from the fact that it was upon its banks the first canoes were constructed which descended to the Pacific; distance by Arrowsmith's map, twelve hundred miles.

Their march through the passes of the mountains commenced on the 14th of May, and "was very fatiguing in consequence of the depth of the snow; on either side were immense glaciers of ice-bound rocks, on which the rays of the setting sun reflected the most beautiful prismatic colors. One of those peaks was like a fortress of rock; it rose eighteen hundred feet perpendicularly