

here, and no flights of a lively imagination, or graphic powers in relating passing occurrences, can atone for impressions which are not in accordance with truth. While it was the leading object to become acquainted with the situation of the remote Indian tribes, and their disposition in regard to teachers of christianity, yet a careful attention was given to the geography of the country, its productions; the climate and seasons, animals, lakes, rivers, and smaller fountains; forests and prairies, mountains and valleys, its mineral and geological structure, and all the various aspects of its physical condition. The country here described is *sui generis*; every thing is formed on a large scale. Its lofty and perpetual snow-topped mountains rising 20,000 feet or more, the trees of the forest, the wide extended prairies, plants of enormous growth, and the results of volcanic agency which you meet in almost every direction, render the whole an ever increasing scene of interest to the traveler; and if any statements appear large, it is because the facts are so in themselves.

It has been an object in writing this volume to compress as much as possible the amount of information, instead of unnecessarily extending it, and the hope is indulged, that while these facts are perused, the desire may be awakened if it does not already exist, and if in existence, may be greatly increased, to benefit the original, the rightful owners, and, (with the exception of a few thousand fur traders scattered to every point of compass over this territory,) the sole occupants of this wide field of uncultivated nature.

The map which accompanies this work has been prepared with much labor and care; and though some minute