

the indiscriminate destruction of a countless herd of rein-deer, while crossing the broad stream of Haye's River, in the height of summer. The natives took some of the meat for present use, but thousands of carcases were abandoned to the current, and infected the river's banks, or drifted down into Hudson's Bay, there to feed the sea fowls and polar bears. As if it were a judgment for this wanton slaughter, in which women and children participated, the deer have never since visited that part of the country in similar numbers. In short, the Indians, accustomed either to a feast or a fast, have little idea beyond the present gratification; and it is to this imprudence that deaths by starvation, and the occasional desertion of infants, and the helpless aged, must be ascribed. The quantity of provisions furnished by the Indians to the establishments throughout the northern districts is inconsiderable. In the winter season, it is limited to the rib pieces of the moose, red and rein-deer, half dried in the smoke of their huts or tents, (the bones being removed for lightness of carriage,) with an occasional addition of some tongues. In the course of the summer, when the animals are easily hunted, and there is great facility of water transport, the more industrious families usually bring to the fort a bale of dried meat, consisting of the fleshy parts of the deer, cut into large slices and dried in the sun, with a bladder or two containing fat, or a bag of pemican. When the residents of a fort find these supplies, and the produce of their fisheries, and of their cultivated plots of ground, (where the ground, from the nature of the soil and climate, is capable of cultivation,) insufficient to supply their wants, they engage two or more young Indians, without families, as 'fort hunters.' These are considered as regular servants; and their duty is confined to the killing of large animals for the use of the establishments. They are allowed to keep a portion of the meat, sufficient for their own consumption: the remainder is transported to the fort, with sledges and dogs, by the servants of the Company. To become a fort hunter is an object of ambition to the northern Indian, as it is an acknowledgment of his skill and fidelity, and ensures to him the gayest clothing."

The great American establishment of Astoria now belongs to the Company's head-quarters at "Vancouver," has changed its name to "Fort George," and retains no vestige of its former importance. There are four tribes of Indians about the lower parts of the Columbia. The author tells us of their distinguishing traits of character, and furnishes us with many curious anecdotes, but the presence of the "Ojibbeways and Ioways" among us, and the publications of Mr. Catlin have so familiarized the public with Indian life, that it is unnecessary to enter on this subject. Fort Vancouver, so called from the English navigator, is situated about ninety miles from the Pacific on the north-west of the Columbia. It was founded by Governor Simpson, in 1824, as being more convenient for trade than Fort George:—

"Fort Vancouver is then the grand mart, and rendezvous for the Company's trade and servants on the Pacific. Thither all the furs and other articles of trade collected west of the Rocky moun-

tains from California to the Russian territories, are brought from the several other forts and stations; and from thence they are shipped to England. Thither too all the goods brought from England for traffic—the various articles in woollens and cottons—in grocery—in hardware—ready-made clothes—oils and paints—ship stores, &c., are landed; and from thence they are distributed to the various posts of the interior, and along the northern shores by sailing vessels, or by boat, or pack-horses, as the several routes permit; for distribution and traffic among the natives, or for the supply of the Company's servants. In a word, Fort Vancouver is the grand emporium of the company's trade, west of the Rocky mountains; as well within the Oregon territory, as beyond it, from California to Kamschatka."

The fort is a parallelogram 250 yards long, and 150 broad, inclosed by a wooden wall 20 feet high, at each angle of which there is a bastion furnished with two twelve-pounders. The area within is divided into courts, around which are the offices, warehouses, workshops, with a chapel, a school-house, and a powder magazine. The governor's house stands in the centre; in it there is a public dining-hall and "smoking room," where the author tells us "there is a great deal of amusement." The clerks are promoted, according to their skill and integrity, to be chief traders, chief factors, until finally they may become shareholders, and governors of forts. The mechanics, and servants of the Company, reside on the bank of a river some distance from the fort. The officers often marry half-breed women, who, it seems, make admirable housewives; they are the daughters of persons high in the Company's service, by Indian women of good descent, and are considered of a superior class. The lower servants of the Company marry native women, who make fond and careful wives. The male half-breeds are distinguished for their horsemanship, and are very dexterous in catching the wild horse, which they do by means of the lasso. A farm of 3000 acres is attached to the fort, which is in a high state of cultivation.

The Oregon territory, according to Mr. Dunn, extends from latitude 42° to 54° north, and is about four times the area of Great Britain. It is remarkable that all the rivers which flow through the country take their rise and are emptied within its limits. The scenery is beautiful; but though there are many fertile districts along the Pacific, as a whole the country is not favorable for agriculture; it is chiefly valuable for trade, and the advantages of its maritime stations. Mr. Dunn divides the country into three sections, the Western, between the Pacific Ocean and the Cascade mountains; the Middle, lying between the Cascade mountains on the west, and the Blue mountains on the east; the Eastern, extending from the Blue to the Rocky mountains. The Cascade range of mountains bounding the western section is the most interesting; the numerous peaks of this range have been named by the Americans after their presidents, which seems to excite much indignation