

separates their waters from those of Clarke's Fork and of the St. Mary's or Bitter Root River; their respective valleys are from one to three miles broad, and are much subject to inundations in the spring; the narrow strips of land which border the two rivers are of the richest mould. The deep snows in winter, the ice and water, keep these valleys literally blocked up during several months (last winter it continued for about five months). Small lakes, from one to three miles in circumference, are numerous in the two valleys. Camash, and other nutritious roots and berries abound in them. Beautiful forests of pine, &c., are found all along. The mountains bordering the two valleys are generally of an oval shape, and well wooded; a few only are snow-topped during the greatest portion of the year. All the rivers and rivulets in the Cœur-d'Alène country abound wonderfully in mountain trout and other fish. The forests are well stocked with deer, with black and brown bears, and with a variety of fur-bearing animals. The long winters and deep snows must retard the settlement of this country.

Clarke's Fork, at its crossing below the great Kalispel Lake, is about forty miles distant from Spokane prairie. Clarke's Fork is one of the principal tributaries of the upper Columbia. From its entrance into the lake to the Niyoutzamin, or Vermilion River, a distance of about seventy miles, I counted thirty-eight rapids. You meet with a suc-