

dian guide, with four pack-horses. All the horses and the guide were kindly furnished by the gentlemen at the fort to carry us as far as Cowlitz Farms, about sixty miles distant, where we intended taking canoes.

On the second day they arrived at the Cowlitz Farms, on the river of that name, which takes its rise in the Cascade Range, near Mount Rainier, and has many short turns in it. Its banks, until it approaches the Columbia, are tolerably high. It is not navigable for barges more than three months in the year.

The Columbia, opposite to Astoria, is four miles wide, but in the middle of the river is an extensive sand-bar with only a few feet of water on it, and at extreme low tides it is bare; the channel is very narrow on each side and difficult to navigate.

The country lying north of the Columbia, between the Cowlitz and Cape Disappointment, is generally rough and rugged, with numerous streams of water, and in many places a rich soil; it is extremely well timbered, and is capable, when cleared, of growing grain and other agricultural produce.

The flood is a very grand sight from the banks of the river at Vancouver, as it passes swiftly by, bearing along the gigantic forest trees, whose immense trunks appear as mere chips. They frequently lodge for a time, in which case others are speedily caught by them, which, obstructing the flow of the water, form rapids, until by a sudden rush the whole is borne off to the ocean, and in time lodged by the currents on some remote and savage island, to supply the natives with canoes.

It would be difficult to give the reader an idea of the anxieties that beset Lieutenant Wilkes when he joined the Vincennes once more on the 16th June, 1841. Day after day had passed in the anxious expectation of receiving news of the Peacock and Flying-Fish, until a conviction became general, with both officers and crew, that some serious accident had occurred to one or both of them among the dangerous coral reefs and islands they had been sent to explore. They were now three months later than the time appointed for their arrival at the Columbia River.

On the 26th a messenger arrived with letters from Nisqually, informing him of the loss of the Peacock on the bar