

flowers were blooming on the hill sides. The grass has now been growing since the 10th of February, and towards the end of that month, the trees were budding and the shrubbery in bloom. About the 26th of November, we had a spell of cold weather, and a slight fall of snow, which, however, was gone in a day or two. In December, we had very little snow, all of it melting as it fell; in January we had more, but all of it like the previous falls, melted as it came down, with the exception of one visitation, that managed to last upon the ground for three days.

The soil has not been frozen more than one inch deep during the whole winter, and ploughing has been carried on without interruption throughout the winter and fall. As regards rains in the winter, I have found them much less troublesome than I anticipated. I had supposed, from what I had heard of the incessant storms of this region, that out-door work could not be done at all here, during the rainy season, but I have found that a great deal more labor of this description can be performed here, than during the same period in the western states. The rains fall in gentle showers, and are generally what is termed drizzling rains, from the effect of which a blanket-coat is an effectual protection for the whole day. They are not the chilly rains which sting you in the fall and spring seasons of the eastern states, but are warm as well as light. They are never hard enough in the worst of times, to wash the roads or fields, and consequently, you can find no gullies worn or cut in your fields by this means.

As to wind, I have *witnessed* less, if such a term can be used, than at any other place I have ever been in, and I have but to say, that if the timber we have here, spread their lofty branches in the States, they would be riven by the lightning, and blown down to an extent that would spare many of them the blow of the settler's axe. Here, I have heard no thunder, and have seen but one tree that had been struck by lightning.

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## CHAPTER XI.

*Aborigines of Oregon—Their numbers and character—  
Their canoes—Their mode of fishing—Game—Timber—Fish—*