

people to whom we are utterly unknown, a trifling accident might produce serious effects. Here was a place for a winter campment, it was of the form of a long Lodge, the earth a dry light soil excavated to the depth of one foot, clean and level, the floor of earth, over which the Lodge is erected. Having descended the current for twenty one miles we camped for the night.¹ To this distance the Banks of the River have become much lower, but all the bays opposite the Points of the River have steep banks of trap rock, about forty to fifty feet, the points are of fine meadow, and when the water subsides to its usual level must be extensive: the current more moderate, yet has many whirlpools. On the whole this day the River and country has a more pleasing appearance than usual, but without woods, except a few scattered dwarf red Fir.

July 8th. Having proceeded seven miles we came to a village of Sixty Two families,² the rapid current drove us half a mile below the village before we could land; the Chief, a middle aged, manly looking man on Horseback now rode down to examine us, he appeared very much agitated, the foam coming out of his mouth; wheeling his horse backwards and forwards, and calling aloud, who are you, what are you. Our custom was to leave one, or two, men in the Canoe to keep it afloat, the rest of us drew up near the shore, about three feet from each other all well armed, myself in the front apparently unarmed; this Chief sometimes appeared to make a dash at us, we then presented our guns and he wheeled his horse; in about a quarter of an hour he became

¹ This camp was near the mouth of Crab Creek and the head of Priest Rapids, where the town of Beverley is situated to-day. Thompson and his men suffered here from high wind and mosquitoes during the night; and rigged up a mast and sail the next morning. This is the southern limit for Indians of the Salish family. [T. C. E.]

² These Indians, called Skummoo in Thompson's notes, are Shapkins from the Kimooenim (Snake) river, a name which puzzled Lewis and Clark in 1805-06. The active, white-haired man is mentioned by Alexander Ross the following month, but higher up the stream. [T. C. E.]