

tercommunication has directed some of it from point to point within the territory.

Having now completed our account of the great physical characteristics of Oregon, our attention naturally turns to those portions of its natural history which are equally necessary to render a land serviceable to the wants of man. Of these, the first and most important are the fisheries. "These," says Lieutenant Wilkes, "are so immense, that the whole native population subsist on them." All the rivers, bays, harbours, and shores, of the coast and islands, abound in salmon, sturgeon, cod, carp, sole, flounders, ray, perch, herring, lamprey eels, and a kind of smelt or sardine, which is extremely abundant. The different kinds predominate alternately, according to the situations of the respective fisheries, but the salmon abound everywhere over all. This superior fish is found in the largest quantities in the Columbia, and the finest of them are taken at the Dalles. They run twice a-year, May and October, and appear inexhaustible. To so great an extent is traffic in them already advanced, that the establishment at Vancouver alone exports ten thousand barrels of them annually. There are also large quantities of oysters, clams, crabs, mussels, and other kinds of shell-fish, found in the different bays and creeks of the country; and, to complete this piscatory feature, we are further told that whales are also found in numbers along the coast