

features, the children well formed and playful, and respect with kind attention to each other pervaded the whole; tho' at present poor in provisions, they were all in good health, and except the infirmities of old age, we have not seen a sick person, partly from using much vegetable food, and partly from a fine dry temperate climate.

They describe their country to the southward to be being high dry and barren, without animals; to the northward the lands are good with Antelopes, Mountain Sheep (Big Horn)<sup>1</sup> and Goats,<sup>2</sup> of which their clothing is made, and of the fine long wool of the latter they make good rude blankets. They had also a few Bison Robes which they must have traded from other Tribes; all these things allowed them to be better clothed than any tribe we had yet seen. We saw no weapons of war with them, and like all the other Tribes they may be said to be unarmed: and like them also they were all as cleanly as people can be without the use of Soap, an article not half so much valued in civilized life as it ought to be. What would become of the Belle and the Beau without it. And also all linen, and cotton; I have often known the want of it, and had to use fine blue clay as a substitute.

As we were about to leave this people with their prayers for our safety, a fine looking man came to us and requested a passage in our Canoe for himself and Wife, to a tribe below us of which he was a Chief. He remarked to us that the Simpoil Indians could not interpret for us much farther down the River, as the Natives spoke a different language, which both himself and his Wife well understood, and that he would then become our Interpreter, glad of the offer we gave them a passage with their little baggage. After descending seven miles we put ashore to boil Salmon, for while with the Indians our whole time is occupied in talking and smoking with them, and keeping guard on all that is passing, for with

<sup>1</sup> *Ovis canadensis californiana* Douglas. [E. A. P.]

<sup>2</sup> *Oreamnos montanus* (Ord). [E. A. P.]