

which were in a pleasant situation near a small stream with some woods along it at the base of Galton's Range, I was soon inundated with presents of berries dried and fresh, dried and pounded meat, and cow's milk. Of course, although no payment was asked, I paid these people for their food in tobacco, ammunition, &c.

Seeing that there was no chance of starving, I determined on remaining here some days for the sake of the horses; the next five days were therefore spent in trading, and exchanging horses, buying provisions, &c., and obtaining by actual observation and Indian report, such knowledge of the country as I was enabled to do.

The weather was fine, and generally calm, but rather warm, the thermometer ranging from 47° to 82° in the shade. I should have said, that in my passage over the mountains, I had experienced no cold nights, the temperature at sunrise being usually about 50° , once only so low as 37° .

I made an excursion to the north of the boundary with my sextant, to obtain as near as possible the precise position of the line; I found no remarkable feature to mark it, but noted the place where it crossed the hills. I also obtained a sketch of the mountains to the northward, Mount Sabine, or as I had myself named it from its peculiar form, "The Steeples," standing out quite distinct from the rest. I may here say, that it was in the neighbourhood of this mountain, that Mr Palliser, following the old Emigrant Pass which he had entered at Bow river, emerged from the mountains after a six or eight days' journey; he then, without however coming to the mouth of the Wigwam branch of the Kootanie river, the true entrance of the pass, recrossed by the Kootanie Pass, which I had previously explored.

I found the Kootanies communicative, and from them gathered the following information:—

That Colville, an American settlement on the Columbia, was about eight or ten days' journey with pack horses, and that they could descend to it by the river in canoes, but there were too many falls and rapids to admit of its being ascended; that the Flathead River, which I followed up in the mountains, runs to the south and joins Clark's Fork of the Columbia, in which is the Flathead Mission, which they described as three days' riding south of this; that there are large lakes to the N.W. of the Kootanie Post, from one of which a small river flows and joins the Kootanie Fork, before it falls into Clark's Fork,

They also told me that there was a pass entering the mountains a little to the southward of their camp, and which came out on the east side near the Chief's Mountain; that there were long hills, but not so steep as the Kootanie Pass, and that they used it sometimes when the horses were heavily loaded. This information of another pass in a portion of the mountains that I knew should be explored, caused me at once to decide on recrossing the mountains by this pass, although I knew that it must be wholly or partially on American ground, I therefore prevailed upon a Kootanie to accompany the party across as guide.

There are some considerable tracts of the tobacco plains which are prairie; the grass however, does not grow close and thick, but in small bunches with bare ground between, and the pasture is nothing to be compared to that at the base of the mountains on the east side. This is perhaps chiefly owing to the nature of the soil, which in the latter case, is a black mould,