

Such, from a united stream of testimony, is the softness of this climate that it may almost be considered tropical. The country from the ocean ascends by regular terraces or plateaus, to the summits of the Rocky mountains, and presents every variety of soil, which will be found adapted to every variety of culture, and is watered by the noble Columbia and its numerous tributaries; and, at some not far distant day, will be found the theatre of man's grandest and happiest efforts.

Lewis and Clarke, in describing the *immediate* valley of the Columbia river, say: "This valley is bounded westward by the mountainous country bordering the coast, from which it extends eastward thirty miles in a direct line, till it is closed by the range of mountains crossing the Columbia above the Great Falls. Its length from north to south we are unable to determine, but we believe that the valley must extend to a great distance; it is, in fact, the only desirable situation for a settlement on the western side of the Rocky mountains, and, being naturally fertile, would, if properly cultivated, afford subsistence for forty or fifty thousand souls. The highlands are generally of a dark, rich loam, not much injured by stones, and though waving, by no means too steep for cultivation, and a few miles from the river they widen, at least on the north side, into rich, extensive prairies. The timber on them is abundant, and consists almost exclusively of the several species of fir already described, and some of which grow to a great height. We measured a fallen tree of that species, and found that, including a stump of about six feet, it was three hundred and eighteen feet in length, though its diameter was only three feet. The dog-wood is also abundant on the uplands; it differs from that of the United States, in having a much smoother bark, and in being much larger; the trunk attaining a diameter of nearly two feet. There is some white cedar, of a large size, but no pine of any kind. In the bottom lands are the cotton-wood, ash, large leaved ash, and sweet willow. Interspersed with these are the pashe-quaw, shanataque, and compound fern, of which the natives use the roots. The red flowering currant abounds on the upland, while along the river bottoms grow luxuriantly the water-cress, strawberry, cinquefoil, narrow-dock, sandrush, and the flowering pea, which is not yet in bloom. There is, also, a species of the bear's-claw, now blooming, but the large-leaved thorn has disappeared, nor do we see any longer the huckleberry, the shal-lum, or any of the other evergreen shrubs which bear berries, except the species, the leaf of which has a prickly margin."

The same gentlemen also observe: "The horse is confined principally to the nations inhabiting the Great Plains of Columbia, extending from latitude 40° to 50° north, and occupying the tract of territory lying between the Rocky mountains, and a range of mountains which pass the Columbia river about the Great Falls. Free tribes possess them in immense numbers. They appear to be of an excellent race, lofty, elegantly formed, active, and durable. Many of them appear like fine English coursers, and resemble in fleetness and bottom the best blooded horses of Virginia. The natives suffer them to run at large in the plains, the grass of which affords them their only winter subsistence, their masters taking no trouble to lay in a winter store for them; notwithstanding, they will, unless much exercised, fatten on the dry grass afforded by the plains during the winter. Whether the horse was originally a native of this country or not, the soil and the climate appear to be perfectly well adapted to the nature of this animal. Horses are said to be found wild in many parts of this extensive

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