

establish a trading post there the ensuing winter. On the 20th of February we began our homeward journey, and spent just twenty-five days on our way back. The distance may be about 350 miles."

Early in 1812, the first meeting of the partners in the Pacific Fur Company was held at Fort Astoria, and among the resolutions passed was this one: "That Mr. David Stuart proceed to his post at Oakinacken, explore the country northward, and establish another post between that and New Caledonia." The new post suggested in this resolution was to be at Kamloops and thither Mr Stuart despatched Alexander Ross. Ross thus describes the expedition:—

"On the 6th of May I started with Boullard and an Indian, with sixteen horses, on a trading excursion, and following Mr. Stuart's route of last winter, reached the She Waps on Thompson's River, the tenth day, and there encamped at a place called by the Indians Cumeloups, near the entrance of the North branch. From this station I sent messages to the different tribes around, who soon assembled, bringing with them their furs. Here we stayed for ten days. The number of Indians collected on the occasion could not have been less than 2,000," (and the one white man, Ross, alone amongst them with his trading outfit!). "Not expecting to see so many, I had taken but a small quantity of goods with me; nevertheless, we loaded all our horses—so anxious were they to trade, and so fond of leaf tobacco, that one morning before breakfast I obtained one hundred and ten beavers for leaf tobacco, at the rate of five leaves per skin, and at last, when I had but one yard of white cotton remaining, one of the chiefs gave me twenty prime beaver skins for it. Having finished our trade, we prepared to return home; but before we could get our odds and ends ready, Boullard, my trusty second, got involved in a love affair, which had nearly involved us all in a disagreeable scrape with the Indians. He was as full of latent tricks as a serpent is full of guile. Unknown to me, the old fellow had been teasing the Indians for a wife, and had already an old squaw at his heels, but could not raise the wind to