

been stationed ever since. I find my situation here very different from what I was led to expect on leaving Scotland. Besides the duties of medical-officer, those of Indian-trader also devolve upon me; so that my time is so fully occupied that little or none have I been able to devote to natural history pursuits. I have made one short journey into the valley of the Walamet, one of the southern tributaries of the Columbia. But, although my opportunities of seeing North-west America have as yet been but limited, I have gathered sufficient information, and seen objects from the three kingdoms of nature, enough to convince me that it is a country of exceeding interest to the naturalist. Limestone, coal, lead, silver, gold, salt, are among its mineral riches. Among its vegetable wonders, I need only cite to you the gigantic *Taxodium* of the frontiers of California, the size of one of which, as I have from credible authority, is 32 feet in circumference, 3 feet from the ground, and 291 feet of extreme length, by actual measurement. I must reserve, however, for a future letter any information in detail I may be able to obtain regarding this region. The maritime chain contains no less than six snowy peaks, within a range of 200 miles, from the parallel of 43° to that of 46°. How often have I wished, when viewing that of Mount Hood, which towers up within 40 miles of Fort Vancouver, that it were transported to Britain, within reach of so many men illustrious in the annals of physical research*.

FORT VANCOUVER, COLUMBIA RIVER,

August 31. 1833.
