

blessed with *milder* and *steadier* temperature, resembling the climate of parallel latitudes in Europe. In the plains and valleys, but little snow falls throughout the winter, and usually melts while falling. It rarely lies on the ground more than two days at a time, except on the summit of the mountains. The winters are rainy rather than cold. The rains for four months, from the middle of October to the middle of March, are almost incessant, and often accompanied by tremendous thunder and lightning. The winds prevalent at this season are from the south and southeast, which usually bring rain. Those from the north to the southwest are the harbingers of fair weather and a clear sky. The residue of the year, from the middle of March to the middle of October, an interval of seven months, is *SERENE* and delightful. There is scarcely any rain throughout this time, yet the face of the country is kept fresh and verdant by nightly dews, and, occasionally, by humid fogs in the mornings. These are not considered prejudicial to health, since both the natives and the whites sleep in the open air with perfect impunity. While this equable and bland temperature prevails throughout the lower country, the peaks and ridges of the vast mountains by which it is *DOMINATED*, are covered with perpetual snow. This renders them discernable at a great distance, shining, at times, like bright summer clouds; at other times, assuming the most aerial tints, and always forming brilliant and striking features in the vast landscape. The mild temperature prevalent throughout the country is attributed, by some, to the succession of winds from the Pacific ocean, extending from latitude 20° to at least 50° north. These temper the heat of summer, so in the shade no one is incommoded by perspiration. They also soften the rigors of winter, and produce such a moderation in climate that the inhabitants can wear the same dress throughout the year."

The following extract is from a recently published journal of Mr. Spalding, who lately passed from the valley of the Mississippi to the mouth of the Columbia, with his wife:

"We left Wallawalla the 6th of September, in a boat propelled by six oarsmen. The usual time of a passage down is five days. We were detained by head winds, and did not arrive till the 12th. Here we were met by the warmest expressions of friendship by Doctor McLaughlin, who conducted us immediately to his house. After a brief interview, he conducted us to his gardens, and, be assured, we were not a little surprised to see west of the Rocky mountains, where we expected to meet scarcely the first landings of civilization, such perfection in horticulture. About five acres are laid out in order, and stored with almost every species of vegetables, fruits, and flowers; and among them figs and citrons, oranges, lemons, pomegranates, cotton plants, and all common fruits in the United States. Every thing produces well. For some days our time was divided between visits on the farm, to the mills, the herds, the dairy, the stores, the ships in port, the school, &c. It of course gave us great satisfaction to witness these fruits of civilization, which we supposed our eyes had looked upon for the last time when we passed the frontier line of our own land. Dr. McLaughlin's farm is the largest on the Columbia river, and produced last year 4,500 bushels of wheat, 4,000 of peas, 1,700 of barley, 1,500 of oats, potatoes not gathered, corn but little. His horned cattle 750, swine 400, with from 200 to 300 horses. He has a saw mill and a flouring mill."