

from the sea, and [this] does not lie long ; but for the next 400 miles the snow comes on the ground early in December, becomes three to four feet in depth of very compact snow and does not dissolve until the latter end of April ; the next 180 miles to the head of the River is almost without snow during winter ; throughout the whole of the River the climate is mild and the upper Lakes are open, and have many Swans and Ducks during the winter, of the former there is a large species of which I killed several, weighing from thirty two to thirty five pounds ; the inside fat filled a common dinner plate.

The geese are all birds of passage and do not return till the middle of March, at which time the Rooks and a variety of small Birds make their appearance. Of the anomalies of this River not the least curious are it's Woods and Forests : I have already described the Forest of gigantic Trees, at the junction of the Canoe with this River, more remarkable for the size of it's Pines and Cedars than it's extent, which may be about six square miles. Above which there are no forests, only patches of woods, and single Trees, mostly of Fir with some Aspens ; below the Forest of the Canoe River, the Columbia has very common woods, to the Ilthkoyape Falls, 740 miles from the sea ; in this distance down to Point Vancouver, the banks of the River and the interior country are bare of Woods, except for a chance straggling Tree of Fir. From the last named place to the Sea, there are Woods. They cannot be called Forests, but of common growth ; the largest Oak<sup>1</sup> measured only eighteen feet girth, with about thirty feet of clean timber, the rest was in branches. On Tongue Point a pine at ten feet above the ground, clean grown, measured forty eight feet girth, and it's length in proportion ; another Pine, thrown down by the wind, measured one hundred and seventy three feet in length, here it was broken off by the steep rock bank on which it fell, and

<sup>1</sup> *Quercus garryana* Hooker. [E. A. P.]