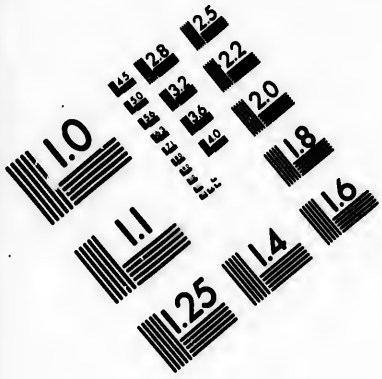

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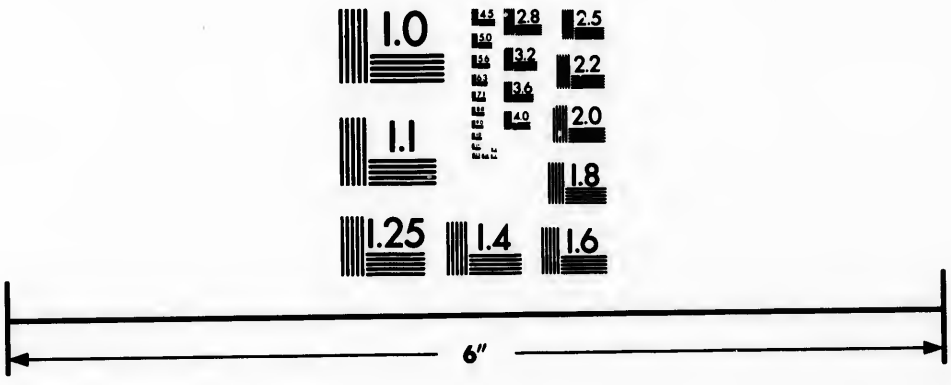

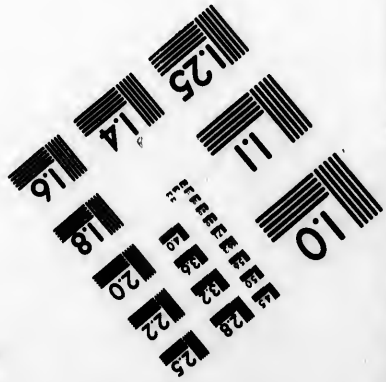

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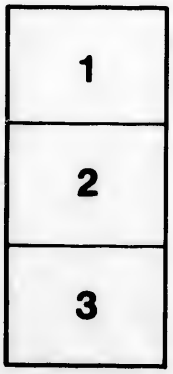

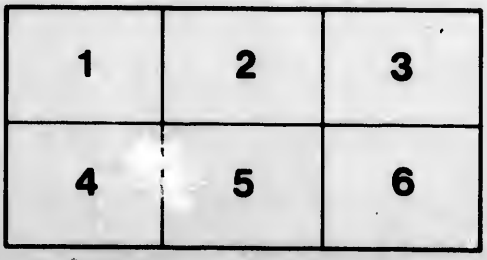

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SECOND EDITION.

AN

ACCOUNT AND HISTORY

OREGON TERRITORY;

JOURNAL OF A TRADING PARTY

ACROSS THE [illegible] AND TO

THE [illegible]

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AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

OREGON TERRITORY.

PART 1.——CHAPTER I.

Situation of the Oregon Territory.—First discovery of the Continent of America, by the Spaniards and the English; —Progress of discovery towards the North West coast.

OREGON is a vast stretch of Territory, (which until within the last quarter of a Century was only noticed in the best Geographies and Gazetteers, as the region irrigated by the "Waters of the West") lying on the North-West Coast of America. It is bounded on the West by the North Pacific Ocean; on the North by latitude 54 deg. 40m. the more higher or Northern district of the Continent having been ceeded to Russia by treaty between the United States, and that court 17th of April 1824.* On the East by the long range of the Rocky Mountains, and on the South by the 42nd parallel, the lower or more Southern portion of the Continent belonging at present to the Mexican Government.

This Geographical arrangement separates the coast on the North Pacific Ocean into three grand divisions. First the upper belonging to Russia. The Second, or the disputed

* See Appendix, No. 1.

Section of Territory. that lying between 54 deg. 40 m. and the 42nd parallel. And the third or lower portion, below the last named limit belonging to the Mexicans. A transient glance at the Map will at once show that should the United States become the sole masters of the centre portion, that Great Britain would then be totally excluded from an outlet for her trade with China, Japan, the Sandwich and other Islands in the North Pacific all along the entire length of the Sea coast.

The length of this immense region is 960 Miles, the breadth of the land along its Northern boundary, is about 500 Miles, and widening gradually with the South-easterly course of the Rocky Mountains, it stretches to about 700 Miles, along its Southern line. Its whole surface may therefore be computed at 400,000, Square Miles, nearly four times as large as Great Britain.*

Previous to entering on its general characteristics, we will present the reader with a brief account of the first discovery of the American Continent, and after that event trace the progress of discovery on the North.west coast between the boundaries 54deg. 40m. and the 42nd. parallel; The Rocky Mountains and the Shores of the Northern Pacific Ocean.

The Continent of America was probably unknown to the ancients. If as some have supposed, to the Carthaginians, The Scandinavians, and the Welsh,† all knowledge of it was afterwards lost. The discovery of this extensive continent, constituting one third of the habitable globe was the accidental result of the attempts made in the latter part of the

* By the best computation England is supposed to contain 57,812, Scotland 26,616, its Islands 4,224, and Ireland 34,874, in all 123,526 square miles.

† In 1170 By Madoc, Prince of Wales, which has given rise to Southey's beautiful poem. See also Powells History of Wales. page 196.

fifteenth Century to find a passage by sea, from the Ports of Europe, to the East Indies, whose precious commodities were of a necessity transported overland, [engrossed by the Venetians,] by a long dangerous and extensive route.

This passage was universally sought by sailing along the Western coasts of Europe and Africa, in the hope of finding a termination of the Continent, when the Indies it was supposed might be reached by taking first an Easterly and then a Northerly course. The discovery in 1486, of the Cape of Good Hope, by Bartholomew Diaz, encouraged expectation and gave increased activity to the spirit of adventure; then rife among the maritime nations.

Among the number of skilful Navigators of that age, Christopher Columb or Columbus, a native of Genoa, born about 1445 or 1446. was distinguished for experience and skill in his profession, for extensive knowledge, and for a bold and original genius. The shape of the Earth then known to be round, and the fact that pieces of carved wood, a canoe, and two human bodies, of a complexion differing from those of Europeans and Africans, had been driven by strong Westerly winds upon the shores contigious to Europe, suggested to his observing mind the project of seeking the East Indies by sailing directly West.

Unable himself to defray the expenses of an expedition, he first sought the aid of his native City. But his Countrymen accustomed only to cruising, along shore, in small and frail vessels; treated his projects as chimerical and declined any assistance, and on meeting with no better success on his applications to John II, then King of Portugal, he despatched his Brother Bartholomew to apply for assistance to the English King Henry VII, who by favoring his views nearly earned the glory of the discovery of America; but in the meantime, Columbus had proceeded to the court of Spain then governed by Ferdinand and Isabella, where for a long

time he solicited in vain, but at length the Queen, just as he was on the point of following his brother to England, persuaded by his continued representations aud after eight years incessant application consented to become his patron,agreeing to defray the expences entirely out of her private property in Castile, and her jewels. Under her directions, the Pinta and two other small vessels were fitted out, and with these he was authorised to sail upon his projected voyage of discovery; it being part of his instructions to claim all land for the Spanish Crown.

At length on the 3rd of August 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed from Palos, a port (in the River Tagus,) on the coast of Spain; directing his course to the Canary Islands, on his arrival at which he stopt to refit, and on the 6th of September following, boldly ventured into Sea, which no European vessel had yet entered, with no chart to direct him in his course, no guide but his compass, and without any knowledge of the tides and currents, which might interrupt his course. He moved rapidly through the waters before the trade wind, which blows invariably from the East to the West between the tropics; judiciously, [by keeping two reckonings the true one for his own guidance] concealing from his ignorant and timid crews, the progress he made, lest they might be alarmed at the speed with which they receeded from their native shores. About the 14th of September, having reached a distance of nearly 600 Miles from the most Westerly of the Canary Islands, the magnetic needle was observed to vary its direction to the Polar Star, and to incline towards the west, an appearance which although now familiar, had never before been observed.

Columbus and his numerous companions were now really alarmed, they were far from any known land, as well as from the tracks of all other navigators, all before and around them was unknown, and their only guide the compass seemed

to be no longer entitled to confidence. But, although alarmed and confounded, Columbus did not lose his presence of mind, but assigned a reason for the variation, which, without satisfying himself silenced the murmurs of his more timid, and less scientific companions. The interval of quiet and subordination was not of long duration, disaffection soon appeared among the ignorant and wavering, and gradually spreading at length pervaded the whole squadron. The men blaming their Sovereign for listening to the wild schemes of a dreaming adventurer, and also themselves for being beguiled into accompanying the expedition. The indications of land had all proved fallacious. They would be amused or deceived no longer. On the 10th of October, they agreed that Columbus should be deprived of the command of an undertaking which seemed to promise nothing short of destruction, in fact, some of the more daring talked of throwing him in the Ocean, as a visionary projector, whose death would cause no regret, and produce no inquiry injurious to themselves at their return home.

Amidst these difficulties, Columbus displayed those traits of character, which proved the greatness of his mind, and his peculiar fitness for the arduous duties of his station. He appeared with a steady countenance as if satisfied with what had been done. Sometimes he soothed his companions by holding out to them a prospect of riches and fame, and by offering a gratuity to him who should first discover land. At other times he assumed a tone of authority, threatening his officers and their crews with the vengeance of their Sovereign, and everlasting infamy should they compel him to abandon the undertaking.

These encouragements and threats, prevented open aud forcible resistance to his authority, meanwhile the squadron proceeded onwards; the indications of land had become more frequent, and convinced him that it could not be far distant.

Yet his crews were unconvinced and their discontent increased. Assembling tumultuously on deck they now demanded to be led back to Spain and as a last expedient to induce them to proceed somewhat further and to silence his turbulent squadron, Columbus proposed that they should continue their course for three days longer, and if during that time land should not be discovered, he would then comply with their demands, to this they consented, but before the period had expired, on the 11th of October 1492, at mid-night, one of the crew of the Pinta, with Columbus on board, saw a light glimmering in the distance, "a light! "a light!" was the joyful exclamation which instantly resounded through the whole squadron. On the approach of the morning of the 12th all hands stood gazing intently in the direction where the expected land would be discovered. As soon as the morning broke, from the crew of the Pinta, the most forward vessel, was heard the cry of land! land! which was repeated with almost frantic delight by the crews of the other vessels, Passing from one extreme to the other, they, who a few hours previous, had reviled and insulted their commander, now regarded him as one whom the Deity had endowed with a knowledge and penetration above the common lot of mortals.

At sunrise, Columbus, in a rich and splendid dress, landed, and, with a drawn sword in one hand, and in the other the royal standard of Spain, took possession of the land for the crown of Spain, all his followers kneeling on the shore, and kissing the ground with tears of joy. The natives, who had assembled in considerable numbers, on the first appearance of the ships, stood around the Spaniards in mute astonishment.

The Europeans were hardly less amazed at the scene before them. Every herb, and shrub, and tree, was different in appearance to those which flourished in Europe. The inhabitants appeared in the simple innocence of nature, entirely

naked, their black hair, in long and uncurled locks, floated upon their shoulders, or was bound in tresses round their heads. Though not tall, they were well shaped and active. They were all shy at first, through fear, but soon became familiar with their visitors, from whom they, with transports of joy, received various trinkets, for which, in return, gave such provisions as they had, together with some cotton yarn, the only commodity of value they could produce.

To this land, which was soon after ascertained to be an island, Columbus gave the name of Salvador, in honour of the saint whose anniversary occurred on that day. The natives called it Guanahani, and by that name it is still known; it is one of the Bahama group of islands, and is about three thousand miles west of the Canaries. From the poverty and ignorance of the natives, Columbus was at once convinced that he had not yet arrived at either of the rich countries, which was the ostensible object of his search. Leaving Guanahini, he discovered Cuba and several other islands, and at length arrived at one, by him, supposed to be the Ophir of Solomon, called Hayti by the natives, the name of which he changed to Hispanolia. Here he remained a few weeks, and then returned to Spain, where he arrived in the Tagus, at Palos, 15th of March, 1493, having spent seven months and eleven days in this memorable voyage. (His reception at court was flattering and splendid, ceremonies were ordered for the occasion, and he was honoured with many proofs of Royal favour.)

The news of his wonderful discovery soon found its way by the then very recent discovery of printing, to the ports of other European kingdoms.

Columbus made three subsequent voyages, on the first of which he left Palos, 25th of September, 1493, with seventeen vessels and 1,500 persons. When sailing south, he discovered Jamaica, &c., returned to Cadiz, 11th of June, 1496.

His next or third trip commenced on the 30th of May, 1498, from San Lucar, with six vessels, during which he made the discovery, on August, 1st, 1498, of the continent of America, at the mouth the Oronoco (a river of the third or fourth magnitude in the new world, but far surpassing the largest in the old), and the first portion of the South American continent ever visited by Europeans. From this voyage it was his hard fate to return loaded with irons.

He sailed on his fourth and last voyage from Cadiz, 9th of May, 1502, with four caravels and 150 persons, during which he struck against the coast at Honduras, and returning to San Lucar, 7th of November, 1504, finished his unrivalled career at Valladolid, 20th of May, 1506.†

His memory will be held in perpetual honour alike by the old continent, which gave him birth, as well as by the new, which ought to bear his name.

But the honour, however, of first discovering the continent of America, without disparagement to the merits of Columbus, must be accorded to John Cabot, a Venetian then settled as a rich merchant at Bristol. [a circumstance which is now placed beyond all uncertainty, by a recent discovery of original documents.] This gentleman obtained from King Henry VII. (who was probably instigated thereto by the recent representations of Bartholomew Columbus) a commission dated 5th March 1495-6* for an expedition of discovery, on which expedition he departed, accompanied by his son Sebastian, from Bristol early in the Spring of 1497; arrived the 24th June at the Island of Newfoundland and proceeding westward soon reached the continent, (which as we have stated was not reached by Columbus till his third voyage in 1498,) and sailing to the 57 deg. returned thence to Bristol as stipulated.

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* See Rymer's Fœdera, folio, vol. xii. page 595.

† See Life and voyages of Columbus, by Washington Irving. 4 vols. 8vo.

John Cabot obtained on the 3rd February 1497-8, a second patent in which he is ordered to take six ships and to sail "to the land and Isles of late, found by the said John in our name and by our commandment."* It does not appear that the elder Cabot undertook this voyage, but left it entirely under the charge of his son Sebastian, who was born at Bristol.

Sebastian Cabot made another Voyage to the coast in 1517 in which the highest latitude gained was 57 deg. although some writers carry him as far North as 58 deg. "*where not liking the bleak appearance of the land he sailed South to* 38 *deg.*

After the voyages of Columbus and Amerigo Vespuccio, and between the years 1500 and 1543, the progress of discovery by the Spaniards and Portuguese went rapidly on, for in January, 1500, the continent was reached near Cape St. Augustin, by Vincent Pinzçon, and three months after that by Alvarez Cabral, at a more northerly point, which he named Santa Cruz, in Brazil, and took possession of in the name of the King of Portugal. In this year, also, Alonzo de Ojeda a companion of Columbus in his first voyage hearing of the reports of Columbus's third voyage, set out from Spain discovered the coast of Paria in lat. 55 deg. and explored the coast from Margarita, to Cape de la Vela. In this voyage he was accompanied by a Florentine Pilot, named Amerigo Vespuccio, who on his return to Europe published a narrative of the voyage, and represented himself as the first discoverer: his relation was read with interest, and the public by adopting the name of America to the discovered country, have un-

* A conclusive proof, but if any further was wanting it is supplied, for by an entry in the privy purse expenses of King Henry VII. we find the sum of £10 awarded him on the 10th August after his return," "as the discoverer of the Newfound Isle" vide Excerpta Historica page 116 117.

justly yielded him an honor undoubtedly due to Columbus or Cabot, and it is now too late to redress the injury thus inflicted

In 1501 the Gulf of Darien was visited by Bastidos; and that of Mexico was explored by Columbus, in 1502. as was Yucatan by De Solis and Pinzon, in 1508. In 1512 Florida was discovered by Ponce de Leon, a spanish navigator, and in the following year the great Pacific was first seen from the Mountains of Darien, by Nunez de Balboa. In 1513, Peru was discovered by Perez de la Rua, and subdued by Pizarro. In the year following, Rio de Janeiro and that of La Plata, by Diaz de Solis. In 1518 Spain discovered Mexico, and in the year following it was conquered by Cortez. Magellan, in 1520, passing through the straits known by his name, discovered in 1521, Terra del Fuego and the Philippine Islands, where he lost his life. In 1527, New Guinea, by Saavredra. In 1535 California was discovered by Cortez, and in 1537, Chili, by Diego de Almagro. In 1539, Francisco de Ulloa traversed the Gulf of California, and, previous to 1541, Spain had explored the interior of the continent as far as the 40th degree of north latitude.*

In 1543. Spain fitted out an expedition under Cabrillo and Ferrelo who explored the coast as high as the 44th parallel on the western side of the continent. From this time until 1589 we read of no other adventurer on the North West Coast, with the exception of what is contained in the account of a voyage made by Fransisco Galli or Guelli, a Merchantman who in his course, sailing from China to Mexico, is said to have reached the vicinity of the American continent in 57½ degrees and to have sailed along in sight of its shores till he arrived at the Bay of San Fransisco in lat. 37½ but little if any reliance is to be placed on his account, as by his

* For the best Work on these early discoveries, see Chronological History of the Discoveries in the South Seas and Pacific Ocean. By James Burney, 5 vols. 4to. 1800.

statement the land first seen by him "*was very high and fair and wholly without snow,*" which could not have been the case with the land in that latitude.

In a voyage commencing the 24th March, 1572, the celebrated navigator Sir Francis Drake from the top of the ridge of mountains at the Isthmus of Darien *first set his eyes* on the waters of the Pacific, but John Oxnam one of his pilots, was the first Englishman, supposed to have sailed upon its bosom, Oxnam was taken and killed by the Spaniards, 1575. In Drake's next voyage "called the Famous," 15th Nov. 1577, he steered through the straits of Magellan and reached the waters of the Pacific on the 6th Sept. 1578, after which time levying contributions on the Spaniards, capturing and destroying many Spanish ships, acquiring from them large quantities of treasure. On the 5th of June, 1579, being in 43 degrees North, "*we found the air so cold and that our men complained, wherefore we thought it best for that time to seek the land.*" On the 17th of July, Drake entered the bay of San Francisco in California, and named it New Albion, Drake left this port on the 23rd July and sailed northward as far as 48 deg. returned to England 29th Sept. 1580.

The next great discovery was made by the Spaniards who in 1592. fitted out a squadron giving the command to a Greek pilot named Juan de Fuca, who by the orders of the Viceroy of Mexico, was to endeavour to discover an outlet supposed to lead into the Atlantic ocean; arriving as it is affirmed between latitude 48 and 49 deg. he fell upon the great arm of the sea, which seperates "Quadra and Vancouvers island," from the continent, and which now bears his name, viz, "the straits of Juan de Fuca" this he thoroughly examined and explored along its Eastern coast, and having remained in it 20 days reached the Pacific ocean. in lat' 51 deg. and then returned to Mexico, where he was received but coldly by the Spanish Viceroy, who withheld all encouragement and re-

ward, a circumstance to which may be attributed the cessation by Spain of all attempts at further discovery on this coast.

From the Policy of the Spanish Government in concealing every thing relative to their American possessions, the existence of this strait was unknown to the rest of the maritime world for a long period. It is stated that De Fuça named its existence to an English Merchant who derided it as fabulous. [vide *post anno* 1785.]

On the 29th December, 1595, Sir Thomas Baskerville with 750 soldiers attempted to make his way overland to the southern ocean by the passes at the Isthmus of Darien, but was repulsed, and his non success caused a lingering fever to Drake who died off the coast 28th Jan. 1596.

In 1596 and 1602, Sebastian Viscanio made various discoveries along the coast called by Drake "New Albion" to a river which appears to have been the present Columbia. There is a narrative by De Fonte who boasts that in 1640, he reached the latitude 53 degrees, but it is regarded as fictitious.

From about 1600 to 1770, little or no knowledge was obtained of the Pacific, if we except that which might have been acquired by the various bands of Buccaneers, who crossing the mountains at the Isthmus of Darien, occasionally, in large bands* to plunder the towns and cities as well as the vessels on the coast, but as nought else besides plunder was their object, little remains in the way of relation. The Russians had by the year 1774 pushed their trading posts down to the borders of 54 deg. 40m.; and in that year the Spaniards fitted out an expedition under the command of Juan Perez, which traversed the coast up to the establishments of the Rus-

* On the 5th of September, 1680, three hundred and fifty Buccaneers landed at the Isthmus of Darien, and in twelve days reached the Pacific.

sians. Returning south, he anchored in a spacious bay under 49 deg. which he named San Lorenzo, [afterwards called by Cook, Nootka Sound.]

In 1775, Spain, stimulated probably by the early discoveries of Cook, fitted out another expedition which sailed under Heceta, Bodega and Maurelle,*who examined the whole shore from 40 deg. to 58 degs., and the former, on his return voyage, while between 46 and 47 degs.. noticed an opening in the land at 46 degs. 16 m. which appeared to be an harbour or mouth of some river. This he reported, aud subsequently Spanish maps have a river laid down there called San Roque.

In 1776. Captain James Cook was commissioned by the English government, on a third voyage of discovery to the Pacific Ocean. Departing from Plymouth, 12th July, 1776. he arrived in sight, on the 6th March, 1778, of the coast of New Albion, lat. 44½; but it was the 29th of that month before he anchored at San Lorenzo, which he named Nootka Sound,† in 49 degs. 33, where he stayed a month to refit. This place he left in April, and afterwards surveyed the coast to Cook's Inlet, much further north than our limits.

For a more detailed account of this very extensive and important voyage of discovery, the reader is recommended to peruse the narrative drawn up by Captain Clerke, now to be obtained in almost every size, but the original large atlas of maps,must be consulted for their greater accuracy. It is almost unnecessary; but it may as well be stated, the unfortunate commander of the expedition lost his life in an affray with the natives of the Island of Owyhee, 11th February, 1779.

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* See Daines Barrington's Miscellanies. 4to. page 508.

† A curious account of the inhabitants of this sound was published by J. R. Jewitt, an English sailor, but belonging to an American vessel, which being seized, all the crew, except himself, was massacred by the natives.

In 1787. An *Austrian* vessel fell upon the strait now known as those of Juan de Fuça, and entered it, to the distance of 60 miles since which time as it so completely answered the description given of it by that navigator nearly two centuries previously; justice was at once done to his memory by the bestowal of his name upon it.

No sooner was the valuable commerce that was to be procured in King George's Sound made known to the world by the discoveries of Captain Cook, than the active spirit of adventure arose, and numerous vessels sailed in search of further discovery and to trade with the natives. The first under Captain Hanna, from Japan, who was the second European that entered Nootka sound. "The Captain Cook," commanded by Capt. Lowrie, and "The Experiment," Capt. Guise, discovered the large and the most northern Island within our limits, which Captain Dixon, in 1787, called after the name of his vessel *Queen Charlotte*, calling the strait by his own, viz. "Dixon's straits." "The Imperial Eagle," Capt. Barclay, discovered the sound in Vancouvers Island now bearing his name. "The Princess Royal," Capt. Duncan, the Princess Royal Islands.

On the 13th of May 1788, Captain John Meares of the ship *Felice*, whose aim was to extend the trade in fur, &c. between China and the north-west coast of America, arrived at Friendly Cove, in Nootka sound, which port he left on the 11th of June following, and explored the coast from 49 deg. 37 north, to the south as far as 45 deg. 30 m. passing on the 30th of June, the straits of Juan de Fuca, and, on his return, reaching the strait of Juan de Fuça took possession of it with all the usual ceremonies, in the name of the King of Great Britain, and on the 13th of July, 1788, he sent the long boat up the strait in command of Mr. Duffin, the first officer of the *Felice*, who, after an affray with the natives, returned in a week, he sailed thence to Nootka, where Captain Douglas

made his appearance in the *Iphigenia,* on 18th August, 1788.*

The American sloop *Washington,* Captain Gray, cast anchor the 17th of September 1788, in Nootka Sound, and three days subsequently Captain Meares launched *the first vessel built by Englishmen in these waters,* "calling it the north-west American." Captain Meares left Nootka, Sept. 24th, 1788. The ship *Columbia,* of Boston, Captain Kendrick, arrived early in the next month and wintered with Captain Gray, in the Sound. The Iphigenia remained there until the 27th of October; and sailing thence with the north-west American to Owyhee, returned again 24th April, 1789, and her consort a few days later.

Captain Gray in the spring of 1789 left Nootka and explored the straits of Fuca for fifty miles in an east-westerly direction, during which he learnt from the natives, that the waters again returned to the Pacific, *the first intimation that Nootka Sound did not run into the main land,* he afterwards sailed round Queen Charlotte's Island and returned in the latter part of the summer to the sound.

Spain, about this time, having heard with some uneasiness, of the movements of those engaged in the Fur trade, began to be alarmed for the safety of her establishments in that quarter, made remonstrances with Russia and also with England, and more effectually to guard against a projected seizure of Nootka, by the Russians, she sent a squadron under the command of Don Jose Martinez, to proceed thither at once. He accordingly arrived at Nootka on the 6th May, 1789, and took possession of it in the name of the king of Spain, and finding there the *Iphigenia,* Captain Douglas, seized her, and put her officers and crew under arrest, but from which they were shortly set free.

On the 14th of the following month, June, the *Princess Royal,* Capt. Hudson arrived at Nootka, and in a few days af-

* Voyages made in the year 1788 and 1789, from Canton to the north-west coast of America. By John Meares, Esq. 4to. *maps.* 1790.

ter, 2nd July, the *Argonaut*, Captain James Colnett, both engaged in the fur trade, the latter with an intention of establishing a permanent post at the Sound. This vessel was also seized by Martinez, and subsequently the *Princess Royal*. The seizure of these vessels, as the property of British subjects, led to the Nootka treaty between Spain and Great Britain, signed 28th October, 1790, by which it was agreed that all matters should be restored by Spain, and all British settlements made between April, 1789, and that date be restored to that authority.*

Captain Gray left Nootka in the *Washington*, August, 1789, for Macao, but meeting with the Columbia, which vessel had been on a trading cruise, transfered himself to its command, and sailed to China, and thence to New York, leaving Captain Kendrick in the Washington, who during the latter part of 1789 and 1790, ranged up and down the coast, making many discoveries, but on his return towards home, was killed by the natives of the Sandwich Islands.

In 1790 a Spanish expedition under Quimper, surveyed the strait of Fuça for one hundred miles.

Captain Gray returned to Nootka, in the Columbia in September 1791, followed by the brig Hope, Captain Ingraham, and four other vessels all engaged in the fur trade soon after arrived.

After wintering at Clyquot near Nootka, Gray sailed again in 1792, on further discoveries, particularly to discover the river as placed in the Spanish chart at 46 deg; 16. and on the 11th of May, arrived opposite to the entrance of a large river as laid down therein. When heedless of all risk and in the spirit of enterprise dashed over the breakers and in a few moments slid out on the bosom of a broad and majestic stream,

* See copy of the Convention, in the appendix No. 2, and the Debates in the Houses of Parliament. Also "Pictorial History of the reign of George the third.

which he instantly named after his vessel, *The Columbia,* and after sailing up for 30 miles, left it on the 20th. of May.

In 1792, Captain Vancouver commencing his voyage in latitude 41 deg. sailing thence northward to the strait o Juan de Fuça and according to his account never losing sight of the shore, he arrived in May 1792, and explored the straits of Juan de Fuça, where sailing in company with two Spanish schooners, the *Sutil,* and the *Mexicana,* under the command of Galiano and Valdes, the parties, entered the Pacific again at 51 deg. finally settling this doubt, and which led to the naming these straits Quadra's or Vancouver's (sometimes they are called Georgia) and to naming the continent on the east side New Hanover and New Georgia, and arrived at Nootka, 28th August 1792, sailed from thence to San Fransisco in California.*

In March 1793. Captain Vancouver examined the coast from 39 deg. 27. to Nootka, and after staying there a short period returned to San Fransisco in California, and in the following year he followed up his survey from Nootka, and again returning in 1794, surveyed the American coast to Cook's Inlet.

On 20th October 1792. Lieut. Broughton, in the Chatham who had been detached in search of new discoveries from Vancouver's squadron, entered the Columbia river and sailed up it ninety miles, at which time the Jenny of Bristol was in this latitude viz. 46 deg. 16. In a subsequent voyage of discovery in the "Providence," Capt. Broughton entered Nootka Sound 17th of March, 1796, and de Fuça's Straits, 26th of May.

The Hudson's Bay Company was chartered in 1668 for the sole purpose of trading with the natives of the western districts in furs, skins, &c. and in 1721, Mr. Knight one of their

* For further particulars see the Voyages in 3 vol. 4to. with folio *atlas of charts,* which will form an important part of the evidence on which the rival claims rest.

officers, endeavoured to reach the continent on its western coast, but fell a sacrifice to the climate on Marble Island, other attempts were made but unsuccessfully, until Mr. (afterwards Sir Alexander) Mackenzie, who having acquired all possible information from the trappers of the company, the Coureurs de Bois and their agents, in a journey properly called his second, set out from Canada on the 10th Oct. 1792, from Fort Chippewyan, and reached before winter, the most remote European settlements, and in the Spring of the next year, gained Peace river, and after enduring every species of fatigue, hunger, &c. found himself 23d Sept. 1793, at the outlet of a river first called by his name, but now Frasers river, which discharges itself by various smaller streams into the Pacific, at or in Vancouvers straits. The name of Mackenzie is enduringly consecrated in the annals of discovery in this portion of the world as the first person who penetrated from sea to sea, he returned by the same route in the next year.*

From the period of the French Revolution, to the conclusion of the war in Europe, in 1816, the English paid little or no attention to discovery in this part of the Globe, but by perseverance, the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company and the north-west Company had been gradually forming hunting posts on the Banks or junctions of all the rivers, down to 56 deg. while during the same period the citizens of the United States availing themselves of their Geographical position carried on the trade exclusively between the north-west coast and the China seas, but the States having enlarged their territories by the purchase, in 1803, of the ceeded district of Louisiana, from Spain at the price of fifteen million of dollars. The congress soon after commissioned Captains Clarke and Lewis

* Voyages through the continent of North America to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans, in 1789 and 1793. 4to. *Maps.* Which also contains the best account of the Fur Trade in those parts.

to explore the Missouri, to cross the rocky mountains and trace any of the rivers to their termination in the Pacific. In 1805, these officers and their men crossed the mountains and descended into the plains and found a number of streams flowing westward, which, upon examination were found to disembogue into the Columbia or some of its tributary branches, whose comprehensive arms, embrace within their span the 42nd and 53rd parallels. On the 15th November, 1805, they reached its mouth and after spending the winter there returned to the eastward on March 23rd, 1806, when after proceeding up the river they separated, July 1st, but met on August 12th, following, at the junction of the Yellowstone and the Missouri rivers on the eastern side of the mountains.*

In 1808 an American Association "The Missouri Company" had established a post beyond the rocky mountains at the Head Waters of the Columbia, but it was abandoned from the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of food from the natives.

The reports of Captains Lewis and Clarke upon their return attracted the attention of John Jacob Astor, an opulent merchant of New York, who conceived the idea of establishing an independent Company to be called "the Pacific" he in consequence chartered the Tonquin, Capt. Jonathan Thorn, which sailed from New York, round Cape Horn and after staying at Owyhee reached the mouth of the Columbia River on the 22nd of March 1811, his route being 19,000 miles, after building a fort there and naming it after the projector "Astoria" Cap. Thorn departed thence on the 5th of June, and in a few days arrived at Vancouvers Island, where the ship being seized by the natives, was finally

* Travels to the source of the Missouri River and across the continent to the Pacific Ocean, in the years 1804, 1805, and 1806, by Captains Lewis and Clarke. 4to. *with maps.* 1814.

blown up by Mr Anderson, out of revenge on the natives.

Mr. Thompson, one of the agents of the North west Company, hearing from the natives while at one of the posts on Frasers Lake, of the establishment at Astoria, made his way thither, arriving there in July 1811.

An over-land party dispatched by Mr Astor headed by Mr. W. P. Hunt crossed the Rocky Mountains and arrived with the wreck of his party, at the Falls of the Columbia on the 29th of January 1812, and shortly after at its mouth, his route being about 3,000 miles.*

The Beaver, Captain Sowle, sailed from New York in October 1811, and reached Astoria 9th of May 1812, and on its arrival Mr Stuart and four other persons were dispatched overland to the East of the rocky mountains, with advices to Mr Astor at New York, which place they reached early in the ensuing Spring; consuming ten months in the journey. Two months previous to their arrival Mr. Astor had dispatched the *Lark* to Columbia, but that vessel became a total wreck on one of the Sandwich Islands. In August 1812, Mr. Hunt, in the Beaver, sailed towards the Northern Coasts, and during his absence (which lasted till the 20th of June, 1813,) Messrs. Stuart and Clarke had established posts in the interior, but numerous dissensions had broken out between the parties which Mr. Hunt on his return could not quell. He sailed thence to the Sandwich Islands, and on his second return found that all the property in "the Pacific Fur Company," had been parted with, together

*For the interesting details relative to this, which as a commercial speculation resulted in an almost total loss of the great capital which had been embarked in it. See, "Astoria" or anecdotes of an enterprise beyond the Rocky Mountains. by Washington Irving" 3 vols 8vo. and Adventure of Captain Bonneville, or scenes beyond the Rocky Mountains, by the same author 3vols 8vo. 1837.

with the posts of Fort Oakanagan, Spokan House, the Koos kooshe and that on the Wlliamette Rivers, to the "North-west Fur Compauy," by transfer, on 16th of October, 1813.

Mr. Ross Cox, who arrived in the Beaver, in 1812. was afterwards employed six years in the trade of the North West Fur Company. He departed from Fort George on the Columbia River April the 16th 1817. on an over-land journey and arrived at Montreal Sept. the 19th 1817. thus occupying five months and three days in the Eastward journey. From his long residence there, Mr. Cox was enabled to publish much interesting matter relative to the natives, the Fur trade, &c.*

On the first of December, 1813, the English ship Raccoon Capt. Black appeared at Astoria, when, although he found that place in possession of the N. W. Company, he landed and took possession of it, in the name of his Britannic Majesty, and re-named it, Fort George. At the end of the American war, in December 1814. By the treaty of Ghent this post was restored to the Americans, and was duly surrendered to Captains Biddle and J. P. Prevost Esq., of the American Service, on the 6th of October 1818.

In the year, 1818. was carried on the negociation as to a settlement of the northern boundary line, which resulted in the establishment of the 49th parallel, from the Lake of the Woods, to the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, as the dividing line; leaving the portion on the western side undefined, except as to article 3.†

By a treaty with Spain, on the 22nd Feb. 1819 ‡ the States

* The Colombia River, or Scenes and Adventures during a residence of six years on the western side of the Rocky Mountains, together with a journey across the American Continent. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1832.

† See the Convention in the appendix, No. 3.

‡ See Appendix, No. 4.

purchased for five millions of dollars all the territory belonging to that crown, north of the 42nd parallel.

The treaty of 1818 expiring in 1828, the convention was renewed August 6th, 1827, with a stipulation that either power giving twelve months notice, it should be annulled.* It is to the address of President Polk, recommending to Congress that notice should be given to the British Government, which causes the present excitement of the English as to whether we shall remain at peace or proceed to war.

In 1821, by an Act of Parliament, the North-west Company and that of Hudson's Bay merged into one proprietary, and their range of territory is now greatly extended. They are for their operations, in possession of Oregon, by treaty with Great Britain and the United States. The annual value of the Peltries collected in Oregon, is about 140,000 dollars, in which trade they prevent all private parties, if possible, to enter upon in their district. To further the pecuniary objects of the company, they now, (in addition to that of dealing in Furs, Skins, &c.) possess large farms, for the cultivation of Grains, Stock, &c., have erected Mills for the sawing of Timber for the markets in the Pacific Ocean; Manufactories of various descriptions, have entered into the fisheries on the coast, and, likewise employ vessels for other commercial purposes.

In 1837 The Government of the United States ordered three vessels and two tenders to be equipped for a voyage of discovery round the world, and placed the same at the orders of Commander C. Wilkes, which after discovering in January, 1840, an Antarctic Continent, the vessels steered up the North Pacific and explored the coast. Capt. Wilkes sailed up the Columbia River, near to the Dalles, the results of the voyage are to be found in the printed relation.†

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* See Appendix, No. 5.

† Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition round the World, during the years 1838 to 1843, under the

In 1842, The congress despatched Captain Fremont, with whom they associated Mr. Niccolet, a distinguished tourist, on a scientific mission, to explore the extent of country lying between the western side of the various tributaries of the Missouri and the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, during this journey he arrived no further west than the South Pass. In 1843 Capt Fremont was ordered to continue his journey across the mountains to the coast, so as to form a connection with those on the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, as made by by commander Wilkes. These reports have just reached England, and been published with a large and most excellent map, in which the countries surrounding the disputed territory are admirably pourtrayed.*

From this work we find that the party, in all about forty persons, set out May 29th, 1843, from the Kansas River, near its junction with the Missouri, and following its course up the valley to the head of the Arkansas River, on the 8th of August, arrived by observation at 48 deg. 20, and five days after entered the disputed territory at the "Southern Pass," which is 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, and about twenty miles in width, its latitude being 42 degs. 24, longitude 109 degs. 26., about 962 miles from the starting point, and from hence to the waters of the Oregon by the route, about 1400, or midway between the waters of the Mississippi and those of the North Pacific.

They here found several roads already made smooth by the wheels of various emigrant parties. After passing and re-pass-

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command of Charles Wilkes, C. U. S. N. 5 vols. 8vo. and Atlas. Wiley and Putnam. There is an abridged and condensed edition, published by Whittaker & Co, in 1 vol. 8vo.

* Narrative of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Montains, in the year 1842, and to Oregon and North Californi, in the years 1843—44, By Brevet Captain J. C. Fremont. 8vo. Wiley and Putman, 1846.

ing various small streams and overtaking a rear party of a large caravan of emigrants,* halted for the night, on 21st of Aug., in a valley 6,400 feet above the level of the sea, for the first time within the disputed territory, the latitude being 42 degs.03. They kept the valley until the first of Sept., and from that date travelled within the Mexican side until the 19th, when they made Fort Hall, on the Saptin or Lewis's River, built by Captain Wyeth, but sold to the Hudson's Bay Company, in lat. 42deg. 01, longitude 112deg. 29, and 4,500ft. above the Sea's level. Distance along the travelled road, from Westport, in Missouri, by way of Fort Laramie and the great South Pass 1,323 miles. They arrived at Dr. Whitman's Mission House, 24th of October; at the Nez Perce Fort, on the Wallawalla River, on the 29th, in lat. 46 degs. 3, which place is about nine miles below the junction of the Columbia with its northern branch, and on that account one of the most important positions in the regions drained by the "Waters of the West." From the South pass to this place is about 1000 miles, and about double that distance to the Missouri, at the entrance of Kansas River. The party afterwards reached the "Dalles," or narrows, on the 4th of November, and on the 7th Vancouver Fort, from whence, as Commander Wilkes had surveyed the Columbia some miles nearer the narrows, the party returned up the river on the 10th, and left the Dalles Mission on the 25th of November, on their return home; crossing the Fall River on 8th of December, and after crossing a river which runs to the Klamath River, just within the 42° parallel the expedition crossed the boundary on or about Christmas Day.

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* A Journal of this party, from its commencement, is reprinted in part 2, and from its relations the reader will be in possession of the vicissitudes to which such a party are exposed and the difficulties to be overcome in the route, that expedition commenced at Independence in the State of Missouri, and gives a complete view of the country east of the Rocky Mountains.

It may be as well to state that this expedition, after enduring great privations from the climate at that season of the year, traversed California, ascending and descending a range of mountains covered with snow, 9,000 feet above the ocean; being the lower portion of the dividing ridge of the Rocky Mountains, 11,200 feet high, arrived on the 6th of August, 1844, at Saint Louis.

Having occupied 15 months during it, and traversed during the time 6,475 miles, or from Kansas landing to Fort Vancouver, 2,766; and from the Dalles to Saint Louis, 3,709.

The recent publication of these most interesting travels, with the journal of the emigrants, form the best and latest accounts received in Europe respecting the country now in dispute.

A large band of emigrants, amounting to about 7,000, were at the meeting place, viz: Independence, Missouri, who were to set out in bands or detatchments, on the first of June, 1845. One of which amounting to 800 persons, was met by Dr. White and four other parties on their return eastward from Vancouver.

An extract of Dr. White's return journey, occupying only 90 days, is inserted in the appendix, as being the latest arrived here.

CHAPTER II.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL VIEW OF OREGON.

The Islands.—Harbours and Coasts of Oregon.—Its Natural Divisions by three Ranges of Mountains, their Climate.—Rivers in the Territory.—The Indian Tribes.—The Capabilities and Prospects of Oregon, by a Three Years Resident.

THE ISLANDS.

THE fore-going pages have already shown that Oregon is a vast country, lying on the North Pacific Ocean, stretching through12 degrees and 40 minutes of North latitude, extending its eastern limits iuto the body of the Rocky Mountains and embracing within those boundaries an area of 400,000, square miles. Attached to this immense territory, and extending along the whole line of its coast from the Strait of Fuça to its northern limit, and even beyond that to the Arctic Sea, is a continuous chain of Islands, known by the general name of the North West Archipelago, which in themselves can scarcely be regarded as less than a feature of secondary importance, the largest are all traversed by mountain ridges the whole broken off from the main land at the Strait of Fuça and running through the Sea connecting those of Oregon on the South with the range of the north, of which Mounts Fairweather and St. Elias are the most prominent peaks.

The first and largest of these Islands, is Quadra or Vancouvers, this extends along the coast from 48deg. 30. in a northerly direction for the space of 160 miles. and forms by its parrallel course with the coast, from which it is distant about 20 miles, the celebrated arm of the Sea called the Strait of Fuça. Its average width is about 45 miles and it contains a surface of about 15,000 square miles, the climate of this Island is mild and salubrious and a large portion of its soil is capable of advantageous cultivation. It has an abundance of fine harbours which afford accommodation for vessels of any size, the chief of these is the San Lorenzo of the Spaniards or the Nootka Sound of Cook, a spacious and secure bay running deep into the land at 49 deg. 34. and containing within itself many other harbours affording most excellent anchorage.

A few miles South of Nootka is a large bay called Clyoquot, and another still further South named Nittinat, which lies at the entrance of the Strait and is filled with a little Archipelago of Islands.

The next Island of consequence is Queen Charlotte's Island of Dixon, or Washington of Gray, it is triangular in form, is 150 miles in length and contains 4,000 square miles, It is a favorite resort of the American Fur Traders, its climate and soil are represented by Captain Ingraham as being extremely well adapted for agricultural purposes, particularly those portions in the vicinity of a fine harbour in 53deg. 3. on its eastern coast, and at Port Estrada or Hancocks River on the North side.

The other Islands below the South Cape of Prince of Wales, [our northern boundary line] are Pitt's Burke's, Dundas, and the Princess Royal groupe. Most of these lie between Washington Island and the shore, rendering the navigation exceedingly perilous. Between Washington and Vancouvers Islands are a continuous line of others, for the most part un-

inhabited, and are only resorted to by the natives on account of the fisheries on the coasts, as no fresh water is supposed to be had on but few of them.

THE COAST AND ITS HARBOURS.

The Coast of Oregon, from the 42nd deg. to the mouth of the Columbia, pursues a north-westerly course; and from that point, bends with a slight and gradual inclination to the straits of Fuça. Its profile consists of a bold, high, wall-like shore of rock, only occasionally broken by gaps or depressions where the rivers of the territory find their way into the sea. The first of these openings above the south line is the mouth of the Klamet, a stream of considerable size issuing from the land, in 42 degs. 40. and extending into it 150 miles; it has two tributaries termed the Shasty and Nasty rivers. The bay of the Klamet is navigable only for vessels of a very light draught; its whole valley is extremely fertile, and the country adjacent to it abounds with a myrtaceous tree, which at the slightest agitation of the wind, diffuses a fragrance that lends to it another feature of an earthly paradise. Between this and the Umqua river are two other streams, neither of which afford harbours for commercial purposes.

The Umqua River disembogues itself into the ocean, at 43 degs. 30. and is a river of considerable extent, entering the land to the distance of 100 miles. It has a tolerable harbour navigable for vessels drawing eight feet water, and its stream is broken by rapids and falls about 30 miles from the sea. Its valley is blessed with its portion of fertility, and consists of groves of stupenduous Timber and rich arable plains. The Hudson's Bay Company have a fort at the mouth of the river the site of which is the scene of a flourishing settlement. Five lesser streams find their way between this point and the Columbia, from the range of Mountains known as "The Presidents," or "Cascade Range," into the Sea.

The mouth of the Columbia is found at 46 degs. 16, but is only distinguishable from the sea by a slight and gradual inner curve in the shore. Like all the harbours formed by the rivers on the sea coast, it is obstructed with extensive sand bars, formed by the deposits of the river on its meeting the ocean, and according to Lieutenant Wilkes "its entrance which has from four and a half to eight fathoms of water, is impracticable for two thirds of the year, and the difficulty of leaving it is equally great."

Passing Cape Disappointment the north Head-land of its mouth, forty miles further north is to be found Gray's Bay, where is good anchorage for vessels drawing ten feet of water, but the harbour is occupied with extensive flats. From Gray's Bay to Cape Flattery. the south point of the straits of Fuça, only two small streams break the barrier of the coast.

Thus through the whole line of the positive coast of the Oregon Territory, lying immediately on the Pacific, there are but two places of refuge, of any importance in a commercial point of view.

The next branch of coast is that which lies along the strait of Fuça. This immense arm of the sea cuts off the northward line of the coast, at Cape Flattery, in latitude 48 degs. and runs into the land in a north-easterly direction for 120 miles, it then turns north-west by west for 200 miles more, and joins the sea again at Pintard's Sound, The southern portion of this strait varies from 15 to 30 miles in width, and the coast of Oregon, along its course, is an exception in its maritime advantages to the portion immediately on the sea. It abounds with fine inland sounds, offering a secure anchorage to vessels of the heaviest draught, and there are no portions of the interior navigation which conceals an hidden danger, they can be entered by any wind and, the great rise and fall of the tides offer facilities for ship building and other establishments unsurpassed in any portion of the globe. Here,

whatever direction emigration may for the present take, will the commercial operations of the territory eventually centre, and amid the din of myriads of voices, proclaim to the world the fulfilment of the prediction that,

"The course of Empire has westward found its way."

The most important branch of this strait is a spacious arm descendiug from its eastern extremity, in a southerly direction into the land to the distance of 100 miles, called by Vancouver, Admiralty Inlet, while the lowermost portion is termed Pugets Sound. This Inlet, like the southern portions of the strait, is filled with splendid harbours; the southernmost of which has the peculiar advantage of being within little more than 300 miles from the navigable waters of the Missouri, on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. Great quantities of bituminous coal have been found in its vicinity, and there are other peculiar advantages attached to this station that must eventually make it a point of the first importance. The Hudson's Bay Company have here a fort. At the east end of Vancouvers Island is a small archipelago of islands (uninhabited) which, though well wooded, are destitute of fresh water. The coast of the main land along the north-western course of the strait, is cut up and penetrated by numerous inlets, called from their perpendicular sides and deep water, canals; they afford no good harbours and offer no inducement to frequent them. One large river empties itself into the strait, about latitude 49 degs. which pursues a northerly direction for several hundred miles, it is called the Tacoutche or Frasers River, and has a trading post called Fort Langley, near its mouth. The other portion of the coast to the north is much of the same character as that south of this river, on the strait. It is cut up by inlets and the numerous islands which line it, and the heavy fogs that are frequent in this region render it at all times difficult to approach or to navigate.

THE NATURAL DIVISION OF OREGON.

THE THREE REGIONS.

THE land of Oregon, is divided by three separate mountain ranges, into three distinct regions, with an inferior line binding the extreme outline of the Pacific Coast.

Overlooking the inferior rim upon the edge of the ocean, the first chain arrived at will be the Cascade Mountains, or as recently named, the Presidents range. They start below the 42nd parallel, and run in a line with the coast at a distance varying from 100 to 150 miles, rising in many places to a height of from 12,000 to 20,000 feet above the level of the sea, in separate cones. Their succession is so continuous as almost to interrupt the communication between the sections, except where the two great rivers, the Columbia and Frasers, force a passage through; an achievement which they only accomplish by being torn into foam, plunging down precipices, or being compressed into deep and dismal gorges.

This stupendous line runs from Mount Jackson to Mount Tyler. The first of which, and the largest of all, rises in 41 degs. 10, and is 20,000 feet high. Jefferson stands in 41 degs. 30. John Quincy Adams, in 42 degs. 10. Madison, in 43 degs. Munroe, in 43 degs. 10. Adams, in 45 degs. Washington,* the most beautiful of all and the Mount St. Helen's, of Vancouver, is about 17,500 feet high, it is a perfect cone

* The limit of perpetual snow on these Mountains are estimated, by Lieut. Wilkes, at 6,500 feet above the level of the sea.

and two thirds of its height is covered with perpetual snow. Van Buren, north-west of Pugets Sound, in 48 degs. Harrison, east of the same, 47 degs. 30. and Tyler, in 49 degs.

The region of country lying between this range of mountains and the sea, is known as *the first or lower region of Oregon.*

The Blue Mountains form the next division, they commence nearly in the centre of the territory, in latitude 46, and run south-westerly from this point for 200 miles in an irregular manner, occasionally interrupted and shooting off in spurs to the south and west.

The region between this and the Presidents range is called the second or middle region

Beyond the Blue Mountains and lying between them and the Rocky Mountains, is the high country or third region of Oregon.

The general course of the Rocky Mountains is from south to south-east, They run south from 54deg. 46. parallel to the coast, [at a distance of 500 miles,] for about 300 miles, and then gradually extending their distances from the sea by a continuous south-westerly course to above 700 miles, at the 40th degree. In these mountains and their offsets, rise the principal rivers which find their way into the North Pacific to the west. Near the 42nd parallel is a remarkable depression in the chain called " the Southern Pass," which experience has proved, affords an easy route for parties and carriages from the eastern to the western side of the mountains, into the territory of Oregon. Above the 48th parallel, other passes are formed by the courses of the rivers from either side, which find their way in some places between the mountains.

From one of the spur or offshoots of this range, spring the Wind River cluster, which passing to the east side of the Rocky Mountains, from which flow many of the head waters of the Missouri and the Yellowstone Rivers.

CLIMATE AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OREGON.

The first or lower region, is that lying on the coast and extending to the Presidents range of mountains. The portion of land lying north of the Columbia and that between it, and the strait of Fuça is a heavily timbered country, covered with trees of an extraordinary size. It has, however, its spaces of prairie, on which good pasturage is to be found, and it has also some fine arable lands.

This section is watered by four rivers, the largest are the Chickelis falling into theColumbia, and theCowelitz emptying itself into the sea at Gray's harbour. The forests of this portion of the lower region are its great features. They consist of Pines, Firs, Spruce, red and white Oak, Ash, Arbutus, Arbor Vitæ, Poplar, Maple, Willow, Cherry, and Yew, with so close and matted an undergrowth of Hazel and other brambles, as to render them almost impenetrable to the footsteps of man. Most of the trees are of an enormous bulk, and they are so thick that they rise before the beholder with a stupendous and impregnable solidity, which declares futile, all ordinary attempts to penetrate it. This astonishing exuberance is not confined alone to the timber of the section north of the Columbia, for at Astoria, on the south bank, eight miles from the ocean is a Fir Tree growing which measures 46 feet in circumference, at ten feet from the ground, ascends 53 feet before giving a branch, and its whole height is 300 feet. Another tree is said to be standing on the banks of the Umqua, the trunk of which is 57 feet in circumference and 216 below its branches. Prime sound Pines, from 200 to 280 feet in height, and from 20 to 40 in circumference, are by no means

uncommon. The value of this spontaneous wealth is enormous, and duly appreciated by the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company, who here have a free settlement, with saw mills, which are worked entirely by Sandwich Islanders, Iroquois Indians, and others, and by which is cut daily at Fort Vancouver alone, thousands of feet of plank, which afterwards obtains a regular sale in the markets of the Pacific Islands.

In the portion lying between the Columbia and the straits of Fuça, is the Cowelitz River, the banks of which are generally bare of Timber; here, too, the Hudson's Bay Company have a fine farm of 600 acres in its western valley, which in 1841 produced 7000 bushels of wheat. The average produce being 20 bushels the acre. They have also a saw and grist mill in full operation, for the produce of which a ready market is found in the Sandwich and other Islands of Polynesia. Live Stock does not succeed well on these farms, and this may be attributed to the low prairie grounds near the river, and also to the depredations of the wolves. The hilly portion of the country immediately around, though its soil is good, is too heavily timbered to be available, for the present, to agricultural purposes. There are, however, large tracts of fine prairie land at intervals between, suitable for cultivation and ready for the plough.

Proceeding northward we come to Fort Nasqually, a fine harbour at the southern end of Puget's Sound. Here, too, the Hudson's Bay Company have another fine station, and raise wheat (15 bushels per acre) Oats, Peas, Potatoes, and they also make Butter for the Russian settlements. On the Islands of the sound and on the upper section of Admiralty Inlet, the Indians cultivate Potatoes in great abundance which are extremely fine, and constitute a large portion of their food.

Having disposed of the upper section of this region, we come now to that portion of the lower region which lies south of the Columbia, between the President's range and the coast.

This is, by universal agreement, admitted to be the finest portion of all Oregon. It is entered by the Willamette River, (about five miles below Vancouver Fort,) which stream runs into the Columbia, and runs southwards up to its source, about two hundred and twenty miles. This river is navigable for steam-boats and other vessels of light draught for nearly forty miles, when you approach the falls—the invariable feature of the rivers of this territory. Above the falls are the principal settlements of Oregon. Here it is that the American adventurers have located themselves, and by the yearly contributions of emigrants, are rapidly increasing. As settlements are described more particularly in the concluding portion of this volume, we will omit an account of them in this place.

The fertile valley of the Willamette is about 250 miles long, and averages about 75 miles in width, containing in all a surface of more than 17,000 square miles of rich arable land. The soil is an unctous, heavy black loam, which yields to the producer a ready and profuse return for the slightest outlay of his labor. The climate is mild throughout the year, but is warm and very dry; from April to October while sea breezes prevail rain seldom falls in any part of Oregon. During the other months, and while the south-winds blow, the rains are frequent, and at times abundant.

In the valleys of the low country snow is seldom seen, and the ground is so rarely frozen that ploughing may be generally carried on the whole winter. In the winter of 1834 the waters of the Columbia was frozen over, but this was attributable to the accumulation of Ice from above. "This country, says Wyeth, and he resided in it for some years," is well calculated for Wheat, Barley, Oats. Rye, Peas, Apples, Potatoes, and all other Vegetables. "Indian Corn does not succeed well, and is an unprofitable crop."

Of this valley, Lieut. Wilkes says, "the wheat yields 35 or

40 bushels for one bushel sown, or from twenty to thirty an acre, and that the labor necessary to acquire wealth or subsistence is in proportion of one to three."

South of the valley we come to the Umqua, in which is found large prairies of unsurpassable arable land, though the vicinage of the river is chiefly remarkable for its gigantic Pine timber, some idea of the extraordinary size of its forest trees may be gained from the fact, that their seed cones are sometimes more than a foot in length.

Below the Umqua we next arrive at the Tootootutna, or Ronge's River, and beyond that to the voluptuous valley of the Klamet. These lower portions of the first region are thought by many to be the paradise of the whole territory, excelling in richness of soil and voluptuousness of climate, even the favored valley of the Willamette. Of this opinion is Lieut. Wilkes, to whose exertions and researches we are indebted for the geographical knowledge of the western portions of Oregon. Human probability seems to be in favor of regarding the vallies of the Klamet, Tootootutna, and the Umqua, as the future gardens of the west, while the preference of the northern portion may be attributable to the access afforded by the avenue of the Columbia. Population, however, is always gradually increasing, and but a few years may elapse before coasters will be running down to the months of these rivers for their agricultural products.

The principal settlement of the Hudson's Bay Company in Oregon, is situated at Vancouver, on the Columbia; a point ninety miles from its mouth. At this station the main branch of their foreign commerce is carried on, and from it the chief exports in the way of Pine plank, Wheat, and other grains. Butter, &c., &c., is made for the Russian settlements and the islands of the Pacific ocean. They have another farm upon the Fallatry plains, west of the Willamette and about ten miles

from Vancouver, which is also well stocked and in productive cultivation.

The next portion to which we lead the reader, is "*the second or middle region,*" that between the President's range and the Blue Mountains. This district being more elevated and not possessing the fertile lands in the lower district, yet being still less elevated than the *third,* all the stern extremities of the latter's climate and soil are proportionately modified. Its mean height is about 1000 feet above the level of the sea, and much of its surface is a rolling prairie country, with the exception of the portion above latitude 48 deg. which is very much broken by rivers and traverse mountain chains. It is consequently adapted only in sections to farming purposes. Plenty of game, however, is found in the forests, to compensate for its unfitness for agriculture. Below this parallel and in the middle of the section, are extensive plains admirably adapted to stock raising, from the perpetual verdure always overspreading them, and from the salubrious climate that prevails throughout their neighbourhood. Cattle thrive here better than in the low country, and there is no necessity of housing them at any time, neither need provender be laid in; the natural hay is to be always found in abundance on the prairies, and is preferred by them to the fresh grass upon the bottoms. It is in this region that the Indians raise their immense hordes of horses.

The southern portion of this region, as it advances to the boundary line, becomes less favorable to the purposes of man, and loses its fertility by rolling into swelling sand hills, producing nothing but the wormwood, mixed with prickly pear, and a sprinkling of short bunch grass.

The only remaining portion now to be described, is the high country, or third region, which has been less trodden than the other two; and is a rocky, barren, broken country, traversed in all directions by stupenduous mountain spurs, on the

peaks of which snow lies nearly all the year. It is from two to three thousand feet above the level of the sea, and in consequence of the rivers flowing through it westward to the Columbia, are broken at frequent intervals by their rugged descent, and rendered unnavigable nearly throughout the whole of their course. There are but few arable spots in this whole section of territory, its level plains, except in narrow strips in the immediate vicinity of the rivers, being covered with sand and gravel, and being also generally volcanic in their character. The distinguishing features of the territory, are its extreme dryness, and the difference of the atmosphere between the day and night. It seldom rains, except during a few days in the spring, and no moisture is deposited in dews. In addition to these discouraging features, the climate, from its enclosure between these snowy barriers, is extremely variable, a difference of fifty or sixty degrees taking place between sunrise and mid-day. The soil is, moreover, much impregnated with salt, springs of which abound in many places. It will be seen, by reference to the journal at the end, that some of these possess highly medicinal qualities, and may, from the beauty of their situation, become the Cheltenham or Buxton of the western fashionable world.

Notwithstanding all these unfavorable qualities, there are many small prairies within its mountain, which, from their production of a nutritious bunch grass are well adapted to grazing purposes, and in despite of its changeable climate, Stock is found to thrive well and to endure the severity of winter without protection. These mountains have been examined from the eastern side, and estimates given of their height above the sea level, as Mount Brown 16,000 feet, Mount Hooker, 15,000 feet, &c.

THE RIVERS.

Having given a description of the general characteristics of the land in Oregon, we will now proceed to its waters.

The northern branch of the Columbia River rises in latitude 50 degs, north, and 116 degs. west, from Greenwich, thence it pursues a northerly course to Mc Gillivary's Pass, near Mount Brown, in the Rocky Mountains; there it meets the Canoe River, and by that tributary ascends north-westerly for eighty miles more. At the boat encampment of this pass another stream also joins it through the mountains, and here the Columbia is 2600 feet above the level of the sea. It now turns south, having some obstructions to its safe navigation in the way of rapids, receiving many tributaries in its course to Colville, among which the Beaver, Salmon, Flatbow, and Clarke's Rivers, from the east, at 45 deg. and the Colville and two smaller streams higher up from the west, are the chief.

Thus far on its course, this great river (which in its course to the ocean runs about 1000 miles,) is bounded by a range of high, well wooded mountains, and in places expands into a line of small lakes before it reaches Colville, where it is 2,049 feet above the level of the sea, having a fall from the pass of 550 feet in 220 miles.

Fort Colville stands in a plain of 2000 to 3000 acres. Here the Hudson's Bay Company have a considerable settlement and a farm under cultivation, producing from 3000 to 4000 bushels of different grains, with which their other posts are supplied. On Clarke's River the Company have another post called Flathead House, situated in a rich and beautiful country, spreading eastward to the bases of the Rocky Mountains, on the Flatbow, also, is another, called Fort Kootanie.

From Fort Colville the Columbia winds westward for about sixty miles, and then receives the Spokan River from the south. This river rises in the lake of the Pointed Heart, which lies n the bosom of extensive plains called by that name, it pur-

sues a north-westerly course for about 200 miles and then empties into the Columbia. Its valley, according to Mr. Spaulding, an American Missionary, who surveyed it "might be extensively used as a grazing district, but its agricultural capabilities are limited." The chief feature of its regions are (like those of the upper country through which we have already traced the Columbia and its tributaries) extensive forests of timber and wide sandy plains intersected by bold and high mountains.

From the Spokan, the Columbia continues its westerly course for sixty miles, receiving several small streams, until it comes to Okanagan, a river finding its source in a line of lakes to the north, and affording boat and canoe navigation to a considerable extent up its course. On the east side of this river and near its junction with the Columbia, the Company have another station, called Fort Okanagan, Though the country bordering on the Okanagan is generally worthless, this settlement is situated among a number of small but rich arable plains.

After passing the Okanagan, the Columbia takes a southward turn, and runs in that direction for 160 miles to Wallawalla, receiving in its course the Piscons, the Ekama, and the Entyatecoom, from the west; and, lastly, the Saptin (rising in 40 degrees, n.) or Lewis's River, from the south. This stream is the largest received by the Columbia, which at this point is 960yards wide, and to it that part which has been traced is navigable for canoes (though obstructed by rapids) to the *Boat Encampment*, a distance of 500 miles to the north.

The Saptin, or Lewis's River, takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains, passes through the Blue, and reaches the Columbia after having pursued a north-westerly direction for 520 miles. It brings a large volume of water to the latter stream, but in consequence of its extensive and numerous rapids it is

not navigable even for canoes, except in the reaches. The Company have a trading station near the south-western boundary line, called Fort Hall, and also one near its junction at Wallawalla; at which the Columbia, is 1,284 feet above the level of the sea. It now takes its last turn to the westward, pursuing a rapid course of 80 miles to the Cascades, and receiving the Umatilla, John Day's, and Chutes Rivers, from the south, and Cathlatates from the north. At the Cascades, the navigation of the river, is interrupted by a series of rapids caused by the immense volume forcing its way through the gorge of the President's range of Mountains. From the Cascades there is still water navigation for forty miles, when the river is again obstructed by rapids; after passing these, it is navigable for 120 miles to the ocean.

The only other great independent river in the territory, is the Tacoutche or Fraser's River, it takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains, near the source of Canoe River; thence it takes a north-westerly course for 80 miles when it makes a turn southward, receiving Stuart's River, which brings down its waters from a chain of lakes extending to the 56 deg. of lat. turning down form Stuart's River, the Tacoutche pursues a southerly course until it reaches lat. 49 degs. where it breaks through the cascade range in a succession of falls and rapids then turns to the west, and after a course of 70 miles more discharges itself into the Gulf of Georgia, in the straits of Fuça, lat. 47 degs. 07. Its whole length is 350 miles, but it is only navigable for 70 miles from its mouth by vessels drawing twelve feet of water; on its bank are three trading posts, viz. Fort Langley, at its mouth; Fort Alexander, at its junction, with a small stream a few miles south of Quisnil's river; and another at the junction of Stuart's River. The country drained by this river is generally unfit for cultivation; the climate is extreme in its variations of heat and cold, and in the latter part of the year dense fogs prevail,

which bar every object from the eye beyond the distance of a hundred yards. The chief features of the section, are extensive forests, transverse ranges of low countries, and vast tracts of marshes and lakes formed by the streams descending from the surrounding heights.

The lakes of the Oregon territory are numerous and well distributed. In the northern section, the Oakanagan, from which flows the Oakanagan River ; Stuart's and Fraser's, near the upper boundary; Quesnell's, in 53 degs. and Klamloop's, in 51 degs. are the largest. In the central section are the Flatbow, the Cœur d' Alene or Pointed Heart, and the Kullespelm, and in the southern district are the Klamet, the Pit, and an abundance of inferior ones, as yet unnoticed in the maps. Several of the latter are salt, while in some parts are found chains of hot springs, as those in Iceland. The smaller lakes are said to add much to the picturesque beauty of the streams.

From the length of the rivers, their frequent falls, and rapids, no district in the world possesses so much water power; this is a happy circumstance, as the timber overspreading the western portion will for a long time form one of the principal exports from the settlements on the Columbia, to which already do vessels resort for spars, planks, &c.

Of the Natural History of the district, the Fisheries are the most important to new settlers. "These," says Lieut. Wilkes "are so immense that the whole native population subsist on them." All the rivers, bays, harbours, and shores of the coast and islands abound in salmon, cod, carp, soles, flounders, ray, perch, herrings, lamprey eels, and a kind of smelt or sardie, which is extremely abundant. The different kinds predominate alternately, according to the situation of the respective fisheries, but the salmon abound everywhere over all. This superior fish is found in the largest quantities in the Columbia, and the finest of them are taken at the

Dalles or narrows. They run twice a year, May and October, and appear inexhaustable. To so great an extent is the traffic in them already advanced, that the establishment at Vancouver alone, exports 10,000 barrels of them annually. There are also large quantities of oysters, clams, crabs, mussels, and other kinds of shell fish to be found in the bays and creeks, while whales are often seen in numbers along the coast, to the mouth of the Fuça's strait, and captured by the piscivorous aborigines.

Of Game, an equal abundance exists. In the spring and fall, the rivers literally swarm with geese, ducks, cranes, swans, and other species of water fowl; and the elk, deer, antelope, bear, wolf, fox, martin, beaver, the musk rat, grizzly bear, and the siffleur, promise with them an harvest for the hunter's rifle. In the middle section, little or no game is to be found, but in the third region the buffaloes are plentiful, and form an attraction to numerous hunting parties, of the Blackfeet and Oregon Indians.

The population of Oregon has been estimated, by Lieut. Wilkes, to be about 20,000; of whom 19,200 to 19,300 are the Aborigines, the remaining 700 whites. This number has, however, since his estimate was made, much increased, and from the large emigrations, the white population may now be safely set down at between 2000 and 3000; of whom the majority are from the states. The largest portion are located on the banks of the Willamette, and the remaining portion are those belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment, and amount in all to about 500 or 600, though this number does not include the Iroquois and Sandwich Islanders employed by them.

There are no means of ascertaining with accuracy the number of the aboriginal population within our limits, as many of them move from place to place during the fishing seasons, but the following table, prepared by Mr. Crawford, of the In-

dian department, for the use of the last congress, will be the best for the reader to rely on.

Indians west of the Rocky Mountains, in the Oregon district, and their numbers.

		Brought up	7,700
Nez Percés		Sokulks	5000
Ponderas		Chimnapuns.....	2000
Flatheads	800	Shaallatlos.....	200
Cœur D' Alene.....		Choopunnishcces....	3000
Shoshonies	1800	Speannaros	240
Callapooahs		Saddals.....	400
Umbaquahs		Wallawallahs	2,600
Kiyuse		Catlashoots	430
Spokans		Pohahs.....	1000
Oakanagans		Willewahs.....	1000
Cootomies.....		Sinaesops.....	200
Chilts	800	Chillokittequaws	2,400
Snakes	1000	Echeboots.....	1000
Chinookes.....	400	Walupums	1000
Cathlamahs	200	Clackamurs.....	1,800
Wahkiakumes	200	Euesteurs.....	1,200
Skillutes	2,500	Chanwappans	400
	7,700		29,570

The most numerous and warlike of the Oregon Indians are in the islands to the north, but on the main land they are generally friendly and well disposed. They are, however, rapidly passing away before the advancing destiny of a superior race and with the wild beasts, vanish gradually from the white mans tracks. Those remaining, are a servile and degraded class, who perform the meanest offices of the settlements, and readily consent to a mode of existence under the missionaries and other settlers, but little short of vassalage.

In the Willamette valley, there are now left but few remnants of the once numerous and powerful tribes that formerly

inhabited it. At the mouth of the Columbia, there are some few of the Chinoocks still left, and about the Cascades, and at the *Dalles* or narrows, still linger considerable numbers of these ill-fated and fast-fading people. There is no longer any spirit left in them; their hearts are broken, their bows unstrung, and from the "Lords of the soil, they have sunk to the degradation of its slaves."

In speaking of the influence of the missionaries over the Indians, Lieut. Wilkes remarks, "they have done but little towards christianizing the natives, being principally engaged in cultivating the mission farms and in the increase of their own flocks and herds. As far as my observation went, there are very few Indians to engage their attention, and they seemed more occupied with the settlement of the country and agricultural pursuits than in missionary labors."

The Hudson's Bay Company are entitled to the highest praise, in not allowing any ardent spirits to be imported into any of their numerous stations, and for the establishment of schools for the native and half-breed children. By this policy the savage will be gradually cured of his distrust, and coaxed into new connexions, he will abandon his bows and other implements of destruction, and attach himself to those used for a more pastoral and commercial purpose.

THE CAPABILITIES AND PROSPECTS OF OREGON.

BY A THREE YEARS RESIDENT.

Having resided nearly three years in Oregon, and frequently travelled over some of the best portions of it, having passed over all the tributaries of the Snake River which enters it on its southern bank, from its source in the mountains to its junction with the Columbia, and having also travelled by water from a point 500 miles distant from the ocean, down the Kaskaskia, Snake, and Columbia to its mouth, and witnessed

the character of the banks during the whole of this distance, I am able to speak from personal observation respecting that portion of the country.

The interior country, as has been stated, is divided from the tract lying on the sea coast by a range of mountains, stretching parallel with the coast at a distance of 150 miles from the ocean. Between the ocean and this range of mountains the Wallamette country is situated, and in soil and climate differs much from the interior region of country. The atmosphere of the interior is exceedingly dry, while that of the region along the coast is unusually damp.

But as I cannot speak of the Wallamette from personal observation, I will confine my remarks to the valley of the Columbia and Snake [Lewis's or Saptin] rivers.

The banks of the Columbia, from the mouth to the Cascades, is heavily timbered. Here, in proceeding up the river, we enter the gorge which the river has cut through the mountain range. Above the Cascades the timber diminishes in quantity and size till we reach the Dalles, at which point it ceases altogether.

The soil on the banks of the Columbia below the Cascades is susceptible of cultivation, though by no means of the best quality. It cannot properly be denominated an alluvial soil, as the river, having its sources in a volcanic region, and passing over in its course nothing but beds of basalt and sterile sands, brings down no deposit capable of forming a fertile soil. The overflowings of the Columbia are thought to injure rather than benefit the soil. At Vancouver, the fields that are well cultivated and well manured produce good crops of wheat and potatoes. But without manuring the crops are very light. Indian corn does not succeed at all, and fruit trees decay prematurely. At Fort George, or Astoria, a few acres of land were cleared by the Americans before the occupation of the country by the Hudson's Bay Company. This is situated on

an elevated point of land, about 14 miles above the mouth of the river, and may be considered a fair sample of the hill country of the region. This could have been cleared only at an immense expense of labor, on account of the heavy growth of timber. This is now partially overgrown with a luxuriant crop of brushwood, but those parts which are clear are covered with as fine a green sward of clover as can be found in the pastures of England. Very good potatoes are found here without manuring.

At the Dalles, cultivation has been attempted, but with what success I know not. Above this point the banks of the Columbia present a barren and inhospitable appearance. Not a tree or shrub of any size is to be seen, Nothing but sterile sands, with a very scanty vegetation, composed of prickly pears of very diminutive size, the bitter sedge, so called in that country (genus artemisia, probably), and small quantities of wild grass. The bluffs recede sometimes from one-fourth to one-half a mile or more from the river, at other times they appear very close. They are composed sometimes of earth entirely, forming low, handsomely rounded hills. Again they are formed of earth, tipped at the summit with a perpendicular wall of basalt; and again, in other places, they are formed of huge ledges of that material, standing up from the water on either side, and opposing their lofty craggy points to each other in perpetual defiance.

As we proceed up the Snake River, the bluffs become more lofty and rugged, and approach usually nearer to the river. In some instances the bluffs consists of regular columns of trap rock, standing up perpendicularly from the bank of the river, to a height of, perhaps, one hundred feet, while the ground at the base is strewed with regularly formed fragments of fallen columns, In other places the trap formation is seen only at the summit of the bluffs, forming there a perpendicular wall, while the subjacent portion of the bluff is a steep de-

clivity covered with irregularly formed fragments of basalt, or beds of clinkers. Such are the banks of the Snake River, for 100 miles above its junction with the Columbia. There the Kaskaskia empties into it from the north. The general character of the Snake River, so far as I was able to hear from others, continues the same so far up as to the great cut, which it makes through the Blue Mountains.

Thus far no timber is to be found on the Columbia or Snake rivers, and no soil for cultivation. Much of the way there is nothing but barren sands, on which scarcely anything grows but the sedge, which is so bitter that no domestic animal will taste it. There are, however, small spots suitable for cultivation in the vicinity of these large rivers. They consist of small alluvial patches on the banks of the small tributaries, at a distance, perhaps, of one, two, or three miles from the main river. The mouths of these tributaries are at great distances from each other, there being only three on the southern bank within the distance of two miles, and one of these enters the Columbia nine miles below the mouth of the Snake River.

The banks of the Kaskaskia resemble somewhat those of the Snake River in their general appearance and formation. The bluffs are of basalt, steep and rugged, approaching usually very near the river. There is, however, one vein of granite crossing this stream, about 100 miles from its junction with the Snake River, and another vein also crosses the Snake River below the mouth of the Kaskaskia. A short distance above the mouth of this stream, scattered trees make their appearance, increasing in number as we proceed up the river. The banks also are more verdant, and are covered usually with grass. Still there are no tracts fit for cultivation, except at the mouths of small streams entering the main stream, or where there may be springs of water issuing from the bluffs at a considerable elevation above the bed of the river, and

forming beneath small beds of loam soil, and vegetable deposits brought down from the mountain sides.

Such, then, is the character of the soil on the large streams of the interior of Oregon. We come now to speak of the soil on the tributaries. My remarks will be confined principally to those emptying into the Columbia and Snake rivers from the south, and to those emptying into the Kaskaskia.

The valley of the Wallawalla, and its numerous branches, is undoubtedly the best portion of the interior country. This stream empties nine miles below the mouth of the Snake river. The valley of the Yamatilla, however, which empties into the Columbia below the Wallawalla, is said to be equally as good as that of the Wallawalla. Both these streams have their sources in the Blue Mountains, and the banks are covered to some extent with timber, mostly cotton wood and alder, until we arrive within ten or twenty miles of the Columbia, where timber ceases, and there is nothing but a stinted growth of brushwood the remaining distance. The character of the whole region occupied by these two streams is much the same, and a description of the one may be taken, as furnishing the general characteristics of the other.

It has been said that "the upper country" (*i.e.* the interior) "has a fertile soil, especially on the tributaries of the Columbia River." Now, this remark is true, but, to a very limited extent, and this is the qualification necessary to give the right impression. The only soil fit for cultivation consists of alluvial bottom, lying in small tracts of five, ten, fifteen, and twenty acres or more along the margin of these small streams. At the forks of two or more of these small streams the largest tracts are usually found. The Wallawalla, with its numerous branches, drains a wide region of country, and along these numerous streams there is a considerable amount of good soil lying in small detached portions, yet the whole amount, when compared with the whole region of country drained by this

river and its branches, is an exceedingly small fraction of the whole. These alluvial patches form the lowest glade of land along the streams above high-water mark. Portions that are overflowed are usually deprived of the alluvial deposit by the flood. These tracts usually lie at or about the same elevation above the bed of the streams, and on the back ground are usually surrounded by a steep elevation of 3 or 4 feet to a higher glade. The soil of these bottoms is of fine quality. The surface in its wild state is covered with a species of fine short grass, interspersed with thorn bushes.

The higher glade just spoken of lies at an elevation of perhaps six feet, more or less, above the alluvial beds, and is entirely barren and useless, covered with sedge and green wood, with little or no grass. This glade also is frequently impregnated with noxious salts, which prevent vegetation. On the Wallawalla there is a much greater proportion of this barren glade than of the alluvial beds, it forming usually the entire back ground of low land, and frequently running down to the very brink of the stream, thus forming a circular rim for these alluvial basins. These alluvial beds, indeed, have all the appearance of having once been covered with a sheet of water, which, at length subsided by the depression of the river channel, leaving their beds of detritus and vegetable deposit to form the portions of fertile soil which are now to be found on the banks of these streams. Between the two glades of land already mentioned, there seems to be an intermediate one partaking somewhat of the characteristics of both. This intermediate glade always lies between the real alluvial and the higher glade, and seems to have been originally an alluvial bed, but has been covered over by a layer of soil brought down from the inner glade which has deteriorated the alluvial soil. This portion is usually covered with a species of coarse strongly rooted grass, growing from two to six feet in height according to the quality of the soil—it is most fertile

along the borders of the real alluvial, and its sterility increases as we approach the higher glade, near which are frequently spots so impregnated with salts as to be destitute entirely of vegetation. The best part of this intermediate kind of soil produces quite as well, though not equal, to the real alluvial. But if portions highly impregnated with the salts before mentioned are ploughed up, the soil is soon covered with a white saline deposit, and seeds if planted will not vegetate.

The greatest quantity of good soil and the best quality may be considered about midway between the base of the Blue Mountains and the Columbia River. As we proceed either way from the middle region, either towards the mountains or the Columbia River, the quantity of the alluvial bottom diminishes, and the quality becomes poorer. As we proceed towards the mountains the banks of many of the small streams are low, the channel changes from time to time, and the soil seems to be all washed away. All these streams make their entrance into the plain from dark, deep, and frightful gorges of the Blue Mountains. The uplands lying between the Wallawalla and Yamatilla, and between the several branches of the Wallawalla are usually quite low, lower than in any other part of the country. The bluffs are very low, and present no ragged appearance, but are usually formed of earth, and rounded at the summit. These upper plains are covered with a very moderate growth of grass, though in many places particularly as we approach the Columbia, they present a very sterile appearance, and grass gives way to the sedge. The northern branch of the Wallawalla, called the Tasha, which joins the Wallawalla, twelve miles from its junction with the Columbia, forms a very pleasant valley, though the amount of alluvial bottom is less than on the Wallawalla, and inferior to that in quality; yet as a valley for grazing it is one of the finest in the region.

In passing along the region in a north-easterly direction,

to strike the Snake river in the region of Kaskaskia, we find the uplands more and more elevated as we pass the Tasha. The next stream we come to is Takanan, which empties into the Snake River. As we approach the stream we look into a dark and frightful chasm, walled up on either side by rocky bluffs, and one is struck by the feeling that he has come to the jumping-off place at the end of the world. But by taking advantage of a small ravine which breaks through the wall, he winds his zig-zag way down the steep to the bottom, when he finds himself in a narrow walled-up channel, in the middle of which it regains an elevation at an angle of at least 45 to reach the summit on either side by a straight line. The valley contains a very few tracts of alluvial bottom, and of very small extent. In proceeding onwards, one makes his way up the steep on either side to an equal elevation; and after a few miles down, he goes into the bed of a small stream emptying itself into the former, the bluffs along which are less precipitous than those of the former. This valley also contains but a small quantity of alluvial bottom of an inferior quality. After proceeding up this valley for some miles, we mount up again to a still greater elevation, and at length descend to the bed of the Snake River.

The elevated regions are exposed to cold piercing winds, and are covered with a very thin and stunted growth of grass.

After passing up the Snake River several miles, we cross over and pass over the Kaskaskia, a distance of 14 miles, when we come to the valley of a small stream, called Lapwai. In this valley there is a moderate amount of good productive alluvial bottom.

In passing on beyond this place up the Kaskaskia, we leave the river entirely, and pass over the elevated plains, descending into deep and precipitous ravines till we strike the Kaskaskia again at Kamiah, about 100 miles above its junction

with the Snake River. On the way we pass through the border of the timbered region connected with the Blue Mountain range. These plains are covered with a heavier growth of grass than those previously passed over, particularly in the vicinity of the woodland. The timber is a species of pine. The soil, I should judge from the appearance, if cultivated, might, in places protected from the winds, be made to produce moderate crops of some of the smaller grains.

At Kamiah, and in that region, there are a few small tracts of very good soil, which produces well, but that is in the vicinity of the mountainous region, where the streams are shut up in narrow rocky channels, and land fit for cultivation ceases to be found.

One remark I will make concerning this whole region. It is more or less exposed to frost, in consequence of its lying in the vicinity of the mountains. It is also exposed to drought and in order to ensure good crops irrigation is necessary.

One more tract of land of considerable interest I will speak of. This is the Grand Ronde; one finds himself in the midst of a beautiful circular plain of thirty miles or more in diameter, with considerable indentations, where the several streams enter the plain, and also at the outlet. The Blue Mountains form a high circular wall around more than half of its circumference, the remaining distance being shut up by a bluff several hundred feet in height. Thus it is pent up on all sides having no outlet except a deep channel through the mountains, where the waters flow off into the Snake River.

This place is evidently an alluvial formation. It is covered with a luxuriant growth of grass, and is susceptible of cultivation, though, from its situation among mountains, crops here might be ruined by frost.

This plain has the appearance of having been once the bed of a lake, whose waters formerly filled its whole basin, but by the wearing away of the channel at its outlet, its waters were

drained off, leaving its present bed of alluvial soil. More remotely, however, it may have been the crater of a great volcano, which might have been in action at a period immediately subsequent to the throwing up of that part of the continent from the bed of the ocean, and this may account for its present form, and the character of the wells by which it is surrounded.

In proceeding farther into the interior, along the southern tributaries of the Snake River, the country becomes more barren and desolate, the plains covered with sedge, and the verdure along the small streams diminishes. There are indications also of more recent volcanic action. Hot springs occur, and the river-banks are in some places found teaming with emissions of scalding and hot water. This may properly be denominated a desert region, in which there are only occasional oases.

Having now described the interior country as far as is necessary for the present purpose, it only remains to inquire into its capabilities and prospects.

It will be seen at once from the above statements that the interior of Oregon can never become an agricultural country, and consequently can never sustain a dense population. It can be turned to account only by raising flocks and herds, and in this way it is capable of supporting a spare population, and a sufficient quantity of alluvial bottom can be found in the best portions of it, to furnish grain and vegetables for such a population residing there for such purposes. It is necessary, however, to say in reference to the grazing capabilities of this region, that they are very far from being superior. There are considerable tracts of waste land, worth almost nothing at all, even for this purpose. The amount of grass, also, which the uplands furnish is very small. Its medium height I should judge to be twelve or fourteen inches, diminishing on the highest or more exposed plains to six or eight inches, and in-

creasing, particularly in the vicinity of the woodlands of the mountains, where there is more moisture, to eighteen or twenty inches. The ground is thinly covered, it usually growing in bunches, so that not more than from one-third to one sixth of the area of the surface is covered. It would, therefore, require some 4 or 5 acres to furnish the same amount of nutriment which common pasture or meadow does. Cattle thrive well in this region, particularly when kept along the banks of the streams; but it has been found by experiment that they will not do well on the high lands, away from the streams, especially in the dry season. Sheep and goats may do well in these up-lands.

The practice of burning over these plains annually, which, however, is only partial, is an evil which must cease, if ever the country becomes extensively stocked with cattle. Cattle live out during the whole winter, and the grass, which dries up during the dry season, and remains in this state through the winter, is standing hay for the cattle to gather for themselves as their necessities require. Let all this be burned over, and the green grass which springs up in the autumn will do but very little towards sustaining a herd through the winter, and starvation must ensue. Cattle and horses suffer in the winter in some parts of this region when there is an unusual quantity of snow, and can find nothing to supply their wants except on southern declivities, when the snow is soon removed by the direct rays of the sun.

What then are the prospects of this region in respect to settlement?

There is one motive, and only one, for immediate settlement in the interior in preference to the Walhamet, and this is the salubrity of the climate. In every other respect the Walhamet is altogether preferable, and will continue to be so till all its land is taken up, and all the grazing country in its vicinity is occupied. It is doubtful whether emigrants will

be willing to forego all other advantages for the sake of climate.

The region of country described lies from 300 to 500 miles from the mouth of the Columbia, or about 200 miles above navigable waters. The Columbia is one of the most dangerous and difficult rivers in the world to navigate, and this can only be improved at an immense expense. The time required to make the trip from Vancouver to Wallawalla, 200 miles, with loaded boats. to make portages, &c., requires from nine to fifteen days, according to the direction of the wind, &c. The expense of transportation this distance is seven shillings sterling for 90 lbs. The expense of transporting produce down the river will also be so great, that it will enable the Walhamet settlers to undersell and take all the profits. The only remaining method of reaching the lower country, is by a road over a difficult mountain from the Walhamet. I would remark, however, that the country lying north of the Columbia may find a more convenient outlet to the ocean direct to Nasqually; but my remarks are intended for the region lying south of the Columbia.

With the drawback upon the upper country the probability of its immediate settlement appears to be very small. In time doubtless it will be settled by herdsmen, but all the circumstances connected with the country point directly to the Walhamet as the first region to be settled. When this whole valley shall become occupied by a dense population, and the lands which are now devoted to pasturage shall be in demand for agricultural purposes, the more distant regions may be brought into requisition for grazing purposes, and cattle may be brought down from the interior by a road across the mountains, to supply the wants of an agricultural community. Thus, in time, the whole interior region, as far as it is capable, may become settled in this scattered and partial manner and become of considerable relative importance in connexion

with a rich, flourishing, and densely populated country along the sea-coast. But time is necessary, in order to produce all these changes, and bring into requisition all these resources of the country, which depend on a great increase of population in one part of the country, and a consequent demand for products beyond the producing capabilities of that region.

There has been laid before the Congress, a proposition or memorial, by Mr. Whitney, for the formation of a RAILWAY [a matter very startling, but certainly not more wonderful than the Chinese building the wall, 1500 miles long, across their territory to prevent the incursions of the Tartars,] along the vast distance between Lake Michigan and the shores of the Pacific; on condition of the company forming it, receiving a grant of Public Lands, *sixty miles in width along the whole line of its route.* But this, Mr. George Wilkes, in his pamphlet on the Oregon Question, insists should not be complied with, as being too gigantic for individuals, and urges the States to complete the necessary works as a "NATIONAL OBJECT," *out of the money to be raised by the sale of Public Lands along its route,*" the length of which (from New York) he estimates at 2,500 miles; which, travelling at the rate of only 15 miles an hour would be performed *in seven days*, and in twenty-five more the ports of China might be reached. *And a return voyage from thence with the products of the East might be landed in Europe in forty-six days ! !* The view that this opens to the mind, independent of its benefits, staggers speculation with its immensity, and stretches beyond all ordinary rules of calculation, and if the magnetic telegraph should be added to this extensive and comprehensive scheme, where shall calculation look for the limits of its vast results ?

In the formation of the line, he says that, " Nature has already contributed to the object more liberally in the country under consideration, than to the same extent of any other

portion of the globe. From the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains, spreads a plain scarcely broken by a hillock; through that stupendous ridge gapes a pass presenting no discouraging opposition to heavily laden waggons with single teams, and from its western sides the banks of the Saptin or Lewis's River lead the traveller through the navigable waters of the Columbia. The cost of its formation, he estimates at 58½ million of dollars, and, by it, they would become the common carriers of the world for the India Trade. The Oregon route, should this project be carried through, would for its shortness, for its safety, for its comparative comfort, and the accuracy with which the duration of its travel could be calculated, be selected in preference to any other by all travellers to the East or the regions of the Pacific; so, that besides the revenue to be derived from the postage of correspondence, and the trade traffic, a large income would accrue from travellers, which would consist ofAmbassadors and their suites; Consuls and other government officers to China and the Indies, to New Holland, to the ports of the western coast, and the Islands of Polynesia; and enticed by the facilities afforded to them, many who otherwise would never have attempted the old voyage, would make a trip to the Indies, Japan, China, or some Island paradise in the Pacific."

PART II.

Peter Burnett

JOURNAL OF THE TRAVELS OF A LARGE EMIGRANT PARTY, ACROSS THE GREAT WESTERN PRAIRIES; AND THROUGH OREGON.

CHAPTER I.

A description of the line of route, and the distances between the Missouri, and the Pacific Ocean.—The start—Arrival at the rendezvous—The features of the gathering—The humor of an Evening in the Camp.

It is not necessay to the object in view, that the writer of this journal should furnish the reason which induced him to turn his face towards the wilderness. Let it suffice that on the morning of the 17th of May, 1843, I mounted my horse in Independence, Missouri, and set out for the general rendezvous, This was 20 miles in a south-west direction, starting with a family of the name of Robbins, from the northern part of Pennsylvania. After examining for the twentieth time if all required for the journey were safe in the waggon, jerking and settling the harness, looking under the horses, and compppletely round the whole concern, John Robbins mounted his seat, gavc a sonorous ahem ! in evidence of his satisfaction, and describing a probatory circle with his lash, when a little circumstance in the waggon interrupted his purpose

and softened the threatening sweep of the gad into an oblique flourish, that spent its elegance in a faint snap near the ground

He discerned that Mrs. Robbins yielding to the weakness of her bosom at the separation of the last link that bound her to the associations of youth, home, and friends. The husband kissed away the tears that were tumbling over her full and rosy cheek, spoke a word of encouragment in her ear,and then, with a moistened eye himself, turned hastily to his place, bringing the whip sharply down, set his features as right as a decemvirs' and rattled off at a pace that soon jolted off every vestige of sadness or depression, amid the cheers of a large party of neighbours, who had met to see us off, and whose benizons floated after us upon the air, as if they were unwilling to resign this living evidence of their long guardianship The morning was magnificent. The breeze fresh and bracing, and the sun poured down his brightness, with such superb glory, that its rays seemed to stream through our very hearts and to change every doubt and dark foreboding into cheerful hope. As I gazed upon that lovely landscape, and saw every blade and leaf glittering, I ceased to wonder that the savage turned his face to look above.

Our course lay south-west, along the Santa Fe trail; after proceeding on our way for three hours, the fresh morning air served its challenge on our appetites, and we halted in compliment to the smooth green sward, the Robbins's tumbled out of the waggon and soon spread their cloth upon it. Then followed the tin cups, tin plates, and the edibles. Of the last we made most speedy disposal. Mrs. Robbins had recovered from her momentary depression; was chatting away in high glee, the two boys scampered away after each other in a race over the fields while one member of the party whom I must apologise for having overlooked, sat beside the hearty John Robbins, looking like the impersonation of gravity itself. This was a large white dog, named Jack, who I understood had long been a member of the family,he appeared to perfectly know his social position, for though there was no evidence of improper levity in his character, or any indication of intemperate importunity in his manner,one might see by the decided cock of his head, and the equally decided interest he bestowed upon every movement of John Robbins's knife and fork, that he knew his rights to a hair. His calculations were not disappointed, and *his* lunch finishing the meal; I mounted my

horse, the Robbins's stowed themselves away under the canvass canopy, and off we jogged once more, to the delight of Jack, who went gamboling away before us.

We had not proceeded far before we were met by a waggon returning from the rendezvous to Independence.

Hallo, strangers ! bound for the encampment ? shouted a voice from the box. Yes ; are we far away ? About three mile. You'll find a party there. We're only goin' back to Independence for some articles we forgot, and then we're with you! Good day.

In about an hour we arrived at the rendezvous, or encampment, as our roadside friend had called it. We found there already over 300 people preparing for one of the most arduous trips ever undertaken in modern time. About 50 waggons were arranged in a huge semicircle, in the centre of which little groups were busying themselves in the usual occupations of life, while others were whiling away the hours in idle conversation. Here, a smith was tinkering at a rivet, there a female bustled over her domestic pots and pans; in one quarter an artisan was engaged in mending a shaft or resetting a waggon top, while in another, a hardy huntsman was rubbing up his rifle, numerous herds of cattle browsed about the plain, while the horses reaped their harvest of the generous herbage within the circle of their tether. All the concomitants of civilization were there, yet so intermixed with savage instances, as to startle the observer at the social hybrid. There was something in the unusual scene and its object, that challenged the reflection and led the mind off in its own despite in search for the causes that induced it. Curiosity asked why a large body of human beings, possessed of a fair share of the comforts of life, should renounce of their own accord all the advantages of society, and submit to a voluntary banishment in a region of which they had only heard by rumour, and was almost beyond the bounds of civilized life? Why, with vast plains before them, offering the most bounteous fertility to the lightest summons of the husbandman; possessing a certain climate, and promising assured comfort; asking no purchase but those of the ploughshare and the spade, they chose rather a toilsome pilgrimage and the uncertain perils of an almost unknown route, to seek the same advantages in the extremity of the continent? It certainly was not from misanthropy, for the very manner of the enterprise denied it; they were not flying

from the persecutions of intolerance and bigotry, but obeying that restless impulse of ambition which Liberty fosters, and which displays itself in a passion for adventure.

We were received on our entrance with a shout of welcome and as we drove in, a dozen busy hands were instantly lent us to assist in arranging the disposal of our articles. Our waggon was drawn to a proper spot, our horses were watered and staked, Mrs. Robbins was introduced to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Harris; the little Robbinses received the overtures of the juvenile Bakers and Browns, and Jack followed suit, by making most decided advances to Sarah, a handsome black terrier, who was doing the amiable in a series of curvetings that would have been most delightful for any lover of natural philosophy to see. As this was also, my first visit to the rendezvous, I was received in like manner, and some acquaintances whom I had made a few days before in the town of Independence, came forward to welcome me and to show me the ins and outs of the encampment, "H'ar you' sir? H'ar you? was the greeting which accompanied by hearty and earnest grasps of the hand, met me on all sides, and in the course of half an hour, I had become acquainted with two thirds of the whole party.

I had four men who put themselves under my special directions, and so linked their interests with mine. They were still at Independence, and I did not expect them till the afternoon of the following day, when they were to bring along our common team, cattle, waggons, and "fixins." For want therefore, of anything to do, I lent a hand to Robbins, in getting up his tent, and setting his things to rights. The remainder of the day was spent in making acquaintances, and projecting arrangements for future guidance, a precaution which I considered by no means unnecessary, now that I had discovered that the struggles of selfishness were likely in a greater or less degree, to agitate our little community. I should not omit to mention here, that I was also introduced this afternoon to Mr. Peter H. Burnet, who was subsequently made captain of the expedition.

After the evening had set in, I laid down in the waggon of an acquaintance, and overcome with fatigue, soon fell asleep. An hour could not have elapsed, however, before I started up wide awake. While I lay endeavouring to recover my distnrbed repose, I had a chance to hear how my neighbours were

disposing of their time. In one direction the sound of a violin rasped the air; in another, a little further off, the mellow warble of a flute stole softly on the night; while hard by my ear, an harmonious voice poured forth a measure of reproach to the

"False hearted Jane Louise."

Unable to sleep, and desirous of taking a share in the enjoyment, I arose and went forth, and approaching the tent from which the last pathetic strain had issued, peeped into its centre. It was filled with a motley group, who appeared to have given themselves up to the last degree of merriment. In the rear, on a huge trunk, which was used as a table, sat two bottles, and a corpulent little jug, all of them, doubtless, contributions from different members of the company. On the right hand of this imposing platform, sat Mc. Farley, and on the left, honest John Robbins, with dog Jack between his legs who was looking, if possible, graver than ever. Behind and mounted on a high seat, made by a trunk turned endways with a flask in his hand, and his hat cocked gaily into an extreme angle, sat the ruling spirit of the party. He was one of those peculiar geniuses whom nature by the gift of a rich fund of humor and invincible gaiety marks for a practical philanthropist In his own inimitable drolleries, Jim Wayne was the source of more real pleasure and enjoyment, during the long journey which followed, than any dozen other causes put together. His songs were sung by the whole camp; his stories were told over and over, for the edification and amusement of every sub circle, and wherever he went, his presence of itself, appeared to possess galvanic power, which operated immediately in distending the muscles of every face.

„Gentlemen!" said Wayne, at the conclusion of his ditty, with an air of impressive solemnity, "it is my painful duty to communicate to you my apprehension, that we have an individual among us, of the most suspicious character, an individual who, so far from entering into our proceedings with that degree of hilarity and goodfellowship which are the guarantees of honest intentions, has preserved a *dogged* silence, and has moreover given more than one indication that he is incapable of appreciating the sentiment of our enlightened proceedings; in short, gentlemen, he is a creature, as a man may say, without a soul." "Gentlemen," continued the speaker, after the buzz of surprise and rapid scrutiny which swept

the circle from man to man, upon this startling communication, was over, "gentlemen, the nature of our enterprize, the peculiarity of our situation, demands our utmost care, and I appeal to your intelligence, if any individual be found in this company, guilty of the demeanor, I have charged him with, shall he not forthwith be summoned before this bar, arraigned for examination, and, if necessary, I will add, for punishment?"

"Yes, Yes, where is he? Who is he?" shouted a dozen voices, while some of the bronzed faces around frowned stern resentment."

Wayne turned, and after looking fixedly at John Robbins for several moments, as if it pained him to perform his duty, at length broke silence. "John Robbins, I command you to produce the body of an individual now in your possession, commonly known as dog Jack, that he may answer to the charge now about to be preferred against him."

At this conclusion, the whole company broke into a general peal of laughter, in which John Robbins, who was relieved from his temporary uneasiness, heartily joined.

"Mc Farley, arraign the culprit," cried Wayne, in a stern tone, which though apparently intended to check the levity of the group, only elicited another burst of merriment.

Jack was lifted on the box by his master, and Mc Farley who acted as clerk of the court, made him face the Judge, setting him on his haunches, and holding up his fore paws for the purpose of accomplishing a respectful attitude.

The President then addressed the offender at length, and with much dignity and force. Jack, while this was going on, never once altered the solemnity of his demeanor. The only departure from his usual stoicism, was an occasional glance which he now and then stole over his shoulder at Mc Farley, who was holding him. At length the President finished his address, and wound up by saying, that "as mercy was the divinest attribute of dogs as well as men, he would forgive him for this first offence, and allow him the opportunity to retrieve his character, by making him an honorary member of this association." Saying which he baptized the animal on the end of the nose, with some of the contents of the flask in his hand, "to learn him," as he said, "to be a jolly good fellow."

Jack had stood everything quietly, until this, but no sooner did the alcoholic nauseate touch his nostrils, than he gave a sudden twist, followed by a spring which swept off the jug, carried Mc Farley to the ground, and nearly upset me, as he flashed passed where I stood.

A long, loud, and continuous roar followed this conclusion of the prank, and under cover of it, I drew off to my quarters again.

This may be considered as a specimen of the evening enjoyments of the pilgrimage, (barring the drinking;) and I have been thus particular with the events of the first night, even at the expense of being charged with frivolity, that the reader may have a correct idea of all the variations and phases of the life that is led in the journey over the prairies. Many and many a time, even in the short period I have spent in this region, have I turned back to luxuriate in thought upon the delights of that adventure.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival of my Camp equipages—Outfit for emigrants—Council at Elm Grove—Regulations for future—Evening scene in the Prairies.

On the following day my men, waggons, and cattle arrived and we were all kept pretty busy in making arrangements. A meeting was held in the latter part of the day, which resulted in the appointing a committee to return to Independence, and make inquiries of Dr. Whitman, missionary, who had an establishment on the Wallawalla, respecting the practicabilities of the road, and an adjournment was made to the 20th, to Elm Grove, at a little distance off, for the purpose of making final arrangements for the regular government of the expedition. Meanwhile, new recruits kept pouring in, and at the appointed time, nearly all the emigrants were at the designated place.

As all the preparations which the wants of our journey demanded were now complete, I will here furnish a description of them for the benefit of the future emigrant, (for whom these

notes are specially written,) adding to them such other directions as the experience of the actual journey has taught me are useful and necessary.

The proper outfit for emigrants is a matter of the first importance, as on it depends not only the ease, the comfort, but even in a great degree, the success of the journey.

The waggons for the trip should be two horse waggons with plain Yankee beds. The running gear should be made of the best materials, and it should also be of the most excellent workmanship. The waggons should have falling tongues, as they have a decided advantage over any other kind for this trip. You frequently are obliged to pass across hollows, having very steep, but short banks, where, it will be perceived, falling tongues are by far the most preferable. The waggon sheets, instead of being painted, should merely be doubled, as painting is apt to make them break, and the bows should be well made and strong. It is best to have sideboards, and to have the upper edge of the waggon bevelled outwards, so that the water running from the sheet, may, when it strikes the body, be shed down the side. It is well also to have the bottom of the bed bevelled in the same way, to preclude any possibility of the approach of water to the inside. With your waggon thus prepared, you are as secure as though you were in a house. Tents and waggon sheets are best made of heavy brown cotton drilling, and the latter, if securely fastened, will, like the former, last well all the way. You should take along with you for repairs, a few extra iron bolts, lynch, pins, skanes, paint bands for the axles, a cold chisel, a few pounds of assorted wrought nails, several papers of tacks, a lot of hoop iron, and a punch for making holes in it; a few chisels, a handsaw, a drawing-knife, a couple of axes, and indeed a general assortment of tools, not forgeting an auger, as they may all be needed on the way in repairing. All the light tools a man has, if they do not weigh too much, should be brought along. When you reach the mountains, if your waggons are not made of seasoned timber, the tires becomes loose; but this defect is very easily repaired with the assistance of the hoop iron you have brought along. You first take the nails out of the tire, and then drive the hoop iron between it and the felloes; the punch is then inserted to make holes in the sheet iron, and the nails following, and being driven home, all will be found a tight as ever. If your waggons are even or-

dinarily good this will not happen at all, and you will not perhaps have occasion to make a repair of any consequence during the whole trip. Any vehicle that can perform a journey from Kentucky to Missouri, will stand the trip well. In proof of this, there are waggons now in use in Oregon which were brought through last year, though they were in quite ordinary condition when they started from the States. Beware of heavy vehicles; they break down your teams, and light ones answer every purpose to much better advantage. The latter will carry every thing you want, and as there are no obstacles on the road, in the way of logs or stumps, or even rocks, until you get more than half way, (when your load is very much reduced,) there is but little danger of accident. You meet with no stumps on the road, until you come to the Burnt river, and there they are very few, and you encounter no rocks until you get among the tail of the Black hills, and these are not formidable in their character, and only last for a short distance. From this point you meet with no other obstructions worth speaking of, until you reach the Great Soda Spring on Bear river, which is situated in the intricicies of the mountain passes. Experience has proved, however, that the difficulties there, are readily overcome. If an individual should have several waggons, some good and some indifferent, he might start with all; the latter would go to the mountains, where the loads being reduced one half, their burdens might be transferred entirely to the strong ones, and they could roll through empty. It is not necessary to bring along extra axletrees, as you seldom break one, though you should take with you a few pieces of well seasoned hickory, to be used for wedges and for other little useful purposes.

TEAMS.—The best teams for this trip are ox-teams. The oxen should be from three to five years old, well set and compactly built, though they should not be too heavy, as their feet will not bear the wear and tear and hardships of the route as well as those of lighter animals. This, though well to be observed as a general rule, is not imperative upon the emigrant, as we had with us in this trip several very large oxen, of seven and eight years of age, which endured the continued labor of the task very well, though not so well as the younger and lighter ones. Young cows make just as good teams as any other, as previous to your reaching Fort Hall, on the west of the mountains, it is merely the continuance of the travel,

and not the hardship of the draught that challenges the physical powers of your cattle. To make cows serve all the purposes of oxen, therefore, you have only to hitch a double number and you will go along as comfortably and easily, as with the best oxen in the world; besides, cows in addition to furnishing you with a nutritious beverage, night and morning, stand the trip better than the male members of their species. Either of the above, however, are better for the emigrant's purposes than mules. They are, moreover, more easily managed—they are not so subject to be lost or broken down on the way—they cost less at the start, and they are worth four times as much when you arrive at the end of your journey.

Those who come to this country with oxen, will be in love with them long before they get here. Their patient, gentle, persevering good will are each a claim upon your warm attachment. They will plunge through the heaviest mud, dive into thickets, climb mountains, however great their previous labor, without the slightest refusal, and in their frugal habits are content with the reward of almost any provender—willows alone satisfying their humble appetites for days together.

I would most strongly urge emigrants to bring all the cattle they can procure; and horses among the rest, as with proper care, the latter stand the journey as well as mules. If a person setting out would invest five hundred dollars in young heifers, and drive them here, they would be worth five thousand dollars to him on his arrival; and by pursuing the enterprise in the way of stock raising, if he did not wish to sell, he could in a short time make a fortune. Milch cows are exceedingly useful on the road, as they give an abundance of milk all the way, with the exception of the latter part of it, where, in consequence of the frequent interruptions of the previously rich herbage, the supply somewhat decreases. This edible is of great value to the traveller, as when thickened, it effects a great saving of flour, and its rich and delicious qualities afford a fine and nourishing food for your children. Its other advantage is, that the giver of it gathers it from the pastures from day to day, and relieves you of any trouble of carriage, by bearing it herself.

We found that yearlings, nay even sucking calves, stood the trip well, but the objection of the latter is, that they get all the milk of the mother.

PROVISIONS.—As this is the most important branch of preparation, it is necessary that we should bestow a careful attention upon it. Every one thinks he must eat, and so settled is the notion, that it would amount to little short of a separation of soul and body to be persuaded to the contrary.

One hundred and fifty pounds of flour, and fifty pounds of bacon, must be allowed to each person, and this must be taken as a fundamental rule—a *protective provision* as the lawyers say, which must not be overlooked or departed from. Besides the above, as much rice, corn meal, parched corn meal, and raw corn, peas, dried fruit, sugar, tea, coffee, and such necessary articles of food, as you can find room for, should by all means be brought along. Flour and parched corn meal will keep sweet the whole way, but corn meal only lasts to the mountains. The parched meal is most excellent in making soup—a few beef cattle or fat calves should be taken to kill on the way, as before you fall in with the buffalo, you will need fresh meat. Peas will be found to be very useful also, and your dried fruits by being brought out occasionally, will supply with their delicacy and nourishing qualities, many of the deprivations of absence from a settled home.

The loading, in short, should consist mostly of provisions. Emigrants should not burden themselves with much furniture or many beds. It is a folly to lug these articles two thousand miles over mountains and rivers, through a mere prejudice of habit and notion. A few light trunks should be brought to pack clothes in, as they will be found to be better than any other article for the same purpose; boxes are too heavy in an expedition where every pound tells in every hour of draught,

All heavy articles, therefore, should be left behind, with the exception of the most necessary cooking utensils, and these should be of tin, or of the lightest materials. If you are heavily loaded. let the quantity of sugar and coffee be small, as milk is preferable as a beverage for health, and, because, as I said before, it travels for itself. You should provide yourself with a water keg, and you should likewise have a tin can made after the fashion of a powder cannister, to hold your milk. A few tin cups, (abjure all crockery,) tin plates, tin saucers, a butcher's knife, a shovel, and a pair of pot-hooks, will go very far toward completing your culinary arrangements, and a small grindstone joined to their company, to

keep them in edge, will also lend a valuable assistance to this department. There are many other articles apparently trifling in their nature, which must not be overlooked, and these the good sense of the emigrant must suggest for himself. Such are cord, bits of linen, leather, &c. Rifles, fowling pieces, pistols, powder, shot, ball, lump lead, and all the accompanying articles of destructive warfare upon game, are, I hardly need say, of the first importance. Man's inheritance of destructiveness must be borne with him to this region as well as to every other. The double inducement to carry articles of inherent usefulness, is their wonderful advance in value—thus, a rifle worth *twenty dollars* in the State, enhances to the worth of *fifty dollars* in Oregon, and fowling pieces increase in price in proportion.

The clothing you take, should be of the same description used in the middle states, and enough should be laid in to last a year. Care should be taken that, amongst the rest of your wardrobe, a half a dozen or a dozen pair of strong shoes should not be forgotten.

These directions will suffice to give the emigrant a notion of his wants, and of the means he will require to procure them. What I have omitted. will be supplied hereafter in the course of this narrative, and the remainder left unmentioned will be suggested as I said before by the intelligence of the emigrant himself.

On the 20th of May we moved to Big Spring, in obedience to the previous resolution, and found upon our arrival there, a large accession to our party. Our number was now found to amount to near five hundred souls, men, women, and children, of which 263 were men able to bear arms.

Here was an enterprize of moment indeed! The greatest confidence appeared to prevail throughout the whole party, and self-reliance and determination were stamped on every countanance. Every now and then, as some rough looking back-woodsman would swagger past, armed to the teeth with pistol and bowie knife, or squads of his companions skirr on horsebaek over the surrounding plains, rifle in hand, and blade in belt, an apprehension would start upon the mind, of the difficulties to be found in harmonizing the incongruous elements, and of subduing them into one reasonable, order loving mass.

After some deliberation, the council resolved in adopting a set of resolutions as its guiding principles, and postponing for the time the election of a commander and his aids, leaving the chief direction temporarily in the hands of Captain John Grant, who was employed as our pilot for the route. An adjournment then took place with the understanding that we should start finally and altogether on the morning of the 22d, and halt at the Kansas river, for a final organization in the election of the commander and other officers.

It was grey dusk when the council at Elm Grove broke up, and the ceremony of supper to which I hastened with a right goad will, led me into the night. When my meal was over, I paid a visit to the tent of John Robbins, and after passing an hour with his family, strolled out to take a view of the camp. Elm Grove is a spot situated in the plain of a vast prairie, rnd receives its distinction and its name from two beautiful elm trees that stand as solitary (?) land marks upon its surface. Though this was the first time I recognized the term of "grove" as applicable to the two trees, I felt willing from their extreme beauty to allow them any prerogative of definition they pleased to arrogate. The night, the scene, the stars, the air, were beautiful. The moon shed her silvery beams upon the white sheets of sixty waggons, whose arrangement marked the parallelogramic boundaries of our camp. A thousand head of cattle grazed upon the surrounding plain, fifty camp fires sent up their enlivening beams of comfort and good cheer, the cheerful sentinel whistled a lively air as he swaggered up and down his post, the sound of the violin, the flute. the flagolet, the accordian; the rich notes of manly voices, some in love ditties and some in patriotic strains, conjoined to lend romance and excitement to the scene. All was mirth, joy, and contentment, "save where some infant raised its fretful pipe," or where some party of infatuated gamesters were cursing the treacheries of a game of chance.

CAAPTER III.

The start—Crossing of the Walpalusia—Visit of Pottawattomies—Crossing of the Kanzas—Sinking of the raft—New recruits—Catholic Missionaries—Election of officers—Cross-

ing of Big Sandy—an Indian visit—Crossing of the Blue—a thunder storm—Novel race after blankets—Meeting with the Osages and Kanzas—Green and the Caw—More rain—New organization and new election—Friends in the desert—The dead Pawnee—Buffalo—chase of an antelope.

EARLY on the morning of the 22d, the signal was given for preparation, and the camp was soon in one universal babel of excitement. Our arrangements, however, were not all completed until after midday, when the teams being all hitched, the cattle herded, the tents struck and stowed, and the waggons all ready to take their places in the line assigned them for the route, the bugle, (blown by Jim Wayne, who galloped up and down, as an aide-de-camp to the temporary commander,) sounded its last signal of departure, and away we streamed to the distance of two miles over the undulating billows of the prairie, at last fairly embarked for the region of our future home. The country we passed through this day, was one succession of gently undulating swells, clothed with a verdure that evinced the rich fertility of the soil. After a journey unmarked by any incident, except the delays arising out of the confusion of a first start, we encamped about an hour before sunset; having accomplished but a distance of three miles. On the following day we succeeded no better, only making in all, four miles, Our cattle gave us a great deal of trouble, as they had heretofore been allowed unrestrained liberty in wandering over the plains, and had not yet been broken into the regularity of an onward march. We encamped this evening on the banks of a beautiful little river, called the Wapalusia, a tributary of the Kansas. It was but about twenty yards wide; its clear pellucid waters rolled over a pebbly bottom, and its abrupt banks were studded with the cotton wood, and ash, which on some portions of its course, intermingled their foilage across the stream.

As soon as we had fallen into our regular disposition for the night, and staked our horses, several of us turned out with nets and fishing tackle, to sweep and to tickle the stream. But though we were successful in furnishing ourselves with some amusement, we were not so successful in the object of our endeavors—being only fortunate enough to secure a few trout, most of which fell to the share of the female department of the expedition.

On the morning of the 24th, we made preparations for crossing the stream, but in consequence of the steepness of its banks, were obliged to let our waggons down with ropes, and to draw them up in the same way. This was the first proof we had of the advantages possessed by the vehicles with falling tongues, for they were easily lifted out of danger, while the others ran against the bottom in their descent, and one of them was snapped off. Our cattle plunged into the water without any hesitation, and all crossing without difficulty, we were in a short time, regularly following our onward movement. We might have avoided all the delay and trouble of this crossing, if we had searched a hundred yards farther up the stream, for there we would have found a practicable ford.

While crossing, we received a flying visit from the Potawattomie Indians. They were out on a hunt, and were mounted on superb horses arrayed in saddles, bridle and martingales. They stopped but a moment to gaze at us, and then scoured away at top speed towards the south.

On the forenoon of the 26th, we arrived at the borders of the Kansas river, and finding it too high to ford, were obliged to come to a dead halt, and to devote the rest of the day to devising means to overcome the unexpected obstruction. Here, however, the unfortunate differences which arise out of the vanity of opinion, prevented the adoption of any practical measure, and the debate went over till the next day. On the following morning, 27th, a committee of three, received the delegated opinions of the whole, and were directed to make arrangements for crossing the river. Content with the compromise, the rest of us who chose, went to work at fishing for a fresh dinner.

The committee applied to a frenchman, named Pappa, who had a log house and a little spot of ground in cultivation at the crossing, and endeavoured to hire his platform. But the old fellow insisting on the most unreasonable terms. no arrangement could be made with him, so the convention between Pappa and the plenipotentiaries of our republic, was broken abruptly off, and we were obliged to commence the construction of a raft upon our own account. This proceeding brought the old curmudgeon to his senses, but not being able to regain the committee, he threw himself open to the impatience of a section of our party, who availed themselves of his reduced offers, and commenced crossing before the main

body. This gave great dissatisfaction to the rest of the company, and inflamed the elements of discord anew in the camp. On the 28th, Pappa's platform while crossing with an inordinate load, suddenly sunk, and several women and children came very near being drowned; but some dozen or two of sturdy arms, soon brought them to the shore, and the mishap was confined to the loss of some property alone. Pappa's platform was then sufferred to float down the stream, and our own being now finished, we all resolved to cross over afterwards upon a common footing. On the following morning, 29th, the general crossing commenced, but in consequence of the great number of our cattle, it was not finished until the 31st. The want of organization was the great object which retarded our movements. While we were lingering on the banks of this river, a number of waggons from the Platte country, came in to join the expedition. On the 30th, two Catholic missionaries arrived at the ford. They were pilgrims through the wilderness on a mission of faith to the Flathead Indians. We treated them with every observance of respect, and cheerfully lent them the assistance of our raft.

The Kansas river is at this point about a qnarter of a mile wide, with sandy banks and bottom, and its waters are muddy like those of the Missouri. The crossing, as I said before, was completed on the 31st, and the whole party were encamped safely on the other side, at Black Warrior Creek.

Having now tested to our heart's content the evils of too large an exercise of the "largest liberty," the desire became universal for the election of an absolute commander of ararangements. Accordingly, a general meeting was held, and the organization was consummated by the election of Peter H. Burnett, as commander in chief, and Mr. Nesmith as orderly sergeant.

This election took place on the 1st June, and on the 2d we left our quarters for an onward movement. Right glad were we to get away, for our situation had been very uncomfortable during the whole time from the 26th, and our stock kept constantly sticking in the mud on the banks of this miserable creek. On the 3d, we travelled a distance of fifteen miles, (more than all accomplished during the previous eleven days,) and on the following day seventeen miles more through a section of the most beautiful prairie lands that had as yet ever met my eye. This day's journey took us across a large creek

with high banks, called "Big Sandy," but in consequence of the thorough organization which had already been effected by our commander, and his prompt measures, it offered but little obstacle to our progress. We encamped at close of day, some miles beyond its western bank. While stationing our waggons in their quadrangular order, and pitching our tents, we received a visit from some Kansas chiefs, much to the terror of the women and children, who gazed with any feelings but those of admiration upon the grim visages of the warriors, made more grim by the bars of black and red paint drawn across them; or who looked with any thing but a serene sensation upon the threatening tomahawks and scalping knives which grinned beneath their girdles. These lords of the soil, however, were by no means disposed to be savage with us, and after a temporary stay, during which they received some tobacco and a few loads of powder and shot, they retired in an opposite direction from whence they came. On the fifth, we crossed the east fork of the Blue, a large creek which is a tributary to the Kansas, accomplishing this day over twenty miles. On the afternoon of the sixth, we arrived at the west fork of the Blue, fifteen miles west of the branch we passed the day before. We found it to be a small river about fifty yards wide, and contrary to our expectations, it was fordable, a rain during the previous night having excited our apprehensions that we should find it swelled into a torrent. First driving in our cattle, we next propped up our waggon beds with large blocks of wood, and thus conveyed them over safe and sound. The prairie on the other side was level and dry, and we encamped quite content with the day's performance.

Alas, our satisfaction was bound to be of short endurance; for about ten o'clock at night, the sky was covered with a darkness so dense as to fairly ache the sight that peered upward in the vain attempt to pierce it. A close heaviness oppressed the air that portended the coming of a thunder storm. A signal was given to us by the guards, and every one was up in a moment to make all secure about his tent or waggon as the case might be; but while yet bustling about, the inky pall was rent in twain, and a tremendous burst exploded over our very heads, that absolutely struck some of us to the ground. A sullen moan followed, increasing gradually into a wild shriek of the elements, as if every demon of the night was lending to the moment his croak of horror. At length

the howling tempest struck us, and before we had fairly recovered from our first stupefaction, several tents were blown down, and two or three which had been carelessly staked were lifted in the air, and passed off on the breath of the hurricane like puffs of down. I stood near the scene of one of these mishaps, and could not restrain from a burst of laughter when, as the canvass departed, a husband and wife jumped up in their scanty night clothes, and on their hands and knees chased the fugitive sheets which curled over and over provokingly before them. My merriment startled the female pursuer, who on discovering me and my roaring companions made a rapid retreat and crept under the mattrass.

These were not the worst of the visitations of the storm, for the wind was accompanied by a tremendous deluge of rain that flooded the whole surface of the prairie, and the entire platform of our encampment; and it is not too much to say that there was scarcely a dry inch of skin in it. Our condition during the night was, consequently, very uncomfortable, and it was not until a pretty advanced hour in the morning, that we had recovered from our condition. This learnt us a new lesson of precaution, which was to dig a trench around the tents on pitching them, so as to lead the water off.

On this day (6th) we were encountered on our march by a party of Osage and Kansas, or Caw Indains, in all the horrid accoutrements of war. They numbered about ninety in all, and had evidently studied every means of making themselves disgusting and terrible. They all rode ponies, and had their heads closely shaven, with the exception of the stiff lock in the centre, which their politeness to their foes reserves for the scalping knife. The advantages of this international regulation of courtesy is obvious, for when a warrior has conquered his foe, instead of being obliged to rip off his scalp in a tedious operation with his teeth, he relieves him of it gracefully and easily by the assistance of his top knot. He is thus allowed to pay attention to a greater number of foes, and the natural increase which thus takes place in deeds of arms, encourages the martial spirit of both nations. The exploit of this party had not been highly creditable to their character, for they had waged destruction only on one brave Pawnee, whom they had surprised and run down like a wild beast, but who, however, had wounded two of his pursuers badly before he was overcome. The miserable devils had his scalp with

them, and they had also secured portions of his cheeks and nose, which were distributed among the chiefs. They had ripped the former from the head of their victim with considerable skill, the ears being attached to it, and upon inspection, I perceived they still contained their unfortunate owner's wampum ornaments.

The Kansas and Osages are the most miserable and filthy Indians we saw east of the Rocky mountains, and they annoyed us excessively whenever we fell in with them, through their mendicant propensities. We gave to this party a calf and some bread, as they importuned us with great earnestness, stating, to strengthen their application, that they had not tasted food for three days. One of the chiefs with an ear of the slaughtered Pawnee swinging round his neck, approached Green, a strapping Missourian, who stood leaning on his rifle, and gazing at the crew with a stern expression of mingled scorn and abhorrence. The savage importuned him by a sign for some powder and ball.

"Some powder and ball you want, eh?" said Green, slowly rising from his slightly incumbent position. "Some powder and ball, eh? Well, I can spare you jist one load out o' here!" saying which he significantly touched the muzzle of his gun with his finger, and then slowly raised it to his sight. The savage hesitated for a moment, uncertain of the white man's purpose, but perceiving that the weapon gradually travelled to a level, he stepped back and opened his hands, as if to explain the friendliness of his purpose.

But the hooshier's blood was up, and advancing as theCaw retired, he raised the butt of his rifle in a threatening manner, exclaiming in an imperative tone: "Out o' my sight, you d—d nigger, or by—, I'll spile your scalpin for ever." The Indian slouched sullenly away, and Green, when tired of chasing him with his eye, turned off in another directon growling: "I'd like to spend a few privat moments with that fellow in the open prairie."

In addition to their other bad qualities, these Indians have the reputation of being the most arrant thieves in the world. They satisfied us as to their rascally propensities on taking their departure, by the theft of a couple of horses, which disappeared from the time of their leaving us. One of the animals was the property of the indignant Missourian.

On the 7th, we removed our camp to the distance of half a mile further on, and resolved to pause the whole day in order to dry our goods and repair the injuries done by the previous storm. The night, however, ended most of our labor, for we were visited by another severe shower, which again flooded the whole camp. On the following morning we started off in the rain, which was falling in torrents, with the determination of finding ground high enough to prevent our camp from being continually swamped. After a weary and miserable peregrination of five miles, we came to a grove of young elms on a slightly elevated knoll, which secured us just the advantages we sought. The rain still kept coming down, but after our tents were pitched, we were able to defy it.

Several of us had caught severe colds by the drenching we had received, and among the rest Mr. Burnet was badly attacked with so serious an indisposition, that he was forced to resign the command.

On the 9th the clouds dispersed, the sun broke through them with its enlivening rays, and we started off at an early hour to reach a grove about five miles distant, where we would have superior facilities in wood and water, for drying our clothes and recruiting ourselves. We reached it about twelve o'clock, and making a halt, in less than half and hour, forty or fifty huge fires were roaring and crackling in the plain. After we had thoroughly dried our garments and recovered our things from their previous confusion, we turned our attention to supplying the vacancy in the office of commander. A council was held which resulted in a separation of the two divisions, one under the command of Captain Jesse Applegate, and the other, after adopting a new organization, elected William Martin commander. The latter division was the largest of the two, having in it seventy-two waggons and one hundred and seventy-five men.

On the 10th, we started out under this new arrangement with fine weather, and a beautifully undulating landscape beckoned us on into its fertile depths. I rode on amongst the advanced guard on the look out for buffalo, and yielding to a spirit of gaiety and spirit in my horse, I suffered him to carry me far beyond the rest. Halting at length to turn back to my companions, I paused to take a momentary scrutiny of the horizon, when I suddenly perceived in the extreme of the south west, two or three little dots just waving on its edge.

"Buffalo, Buffalo!" shouted I, waving my hand to those behind, and dashing off with a dozen clattering feet behind me in the direction of the objects. We were not long left in doubt as to the nature of the new comers, for we were approaching each other, and in a few minutes were shaking hands with the mounted outposts of a trading caravan from Fort Larimie, on its way to Independence with furs and peltries. When the waggons came up, they were cheered by our people, and welcomed with the enthusiasm that hails a sail upon the ocean after a joyless solitude of months. It being noon, and a brook running hard by, we insisted on a pause, and we accordingly spent a couple of happy hours together, after which we separated, and both moved on again. Surely there is something good in human nature! Such scenes as this go very far to destroy the injustice of the assertion, that man's heart is continually evil, and that he naturally inclines to it as the sparks fly upwards. The converse is the rule.

Upon our start, I resumed my position as a scout, and falling in with Green, the sturdy Missourian, we kept company together. As we led the advance with Captain Gant, our attention was attracted simultaneously by a flock of large birds hovering over some object on the plain, and occasionally stooping down towards it, For the purpose of ascertaining the cause of their operations, we rode towards them, and on approaching the scene, found them to be a lot of buzzards feeding upon the dead body of a man. Upon a close inspection, we discovered it to be the body of an Indian, whose dissevered head, badly scalped, lay within a few feet of his body. It was evidently the victim of the war party of the Kansas and Osages whom we had encountered a few days before.

"I'd give another horse to have a turn with one of the niggers who helped in this?" said Green, as we turned away.

The road was smooth all the way to-day: nothing within eye-shot, but a gently undulating landscape, relieved occasionally by little colonies of saplings, and covered with a generous crop of grass, in which our cattle found an elysium of provender. We had another fall of rain on the evening of the 11th, but it was slight, and so far from doing damage, it scarcely occasioned inconvenience.

On the 12th, as we were jogging along at a comfortable pace, the whole camp was suddenly thrown into a fever of excitement by shouts of: "Buffalo! Buffalo!" At the welcome and long wished for cry, several of us who were mounted, galloped ahead to take a share in the sport. On reaching the advance, our erroneous impressions were corrected by the information that the sport was over, and that Capt. Gant and others had just killed a large buffalo, and were waiting until the caravan arrived at the scene of the exploit, to take charge of the carcase. It turned out to be a veteran bull who had been discovered by the hunters grazing by himself about two miles distant on the lead. The horsemen immediately run upon him, discharging their rifles to stop his career, and when they had sufficiently shortened their distance, drew on him their large horse pistols. This proved effectual, and the old soldier bit the dust a victim to seven balls. He appeared worn with grief at his desolate condition, and his flesh toughened with age, proved hardly an enviable refreshment. The old fellow had probably been left here in the spring when sick, by the other buffaloes. These animals come down to Blue river in great numbers to spend the winter among the rushes, which are abundant in the bottoms near the stream, but leave in the spring.

On the 14th, we entered and passed over a broad district of prairie land, equal for farming purposes to any soil in the world; but it was all solitary wild prairie, and scarcely relieved by the slightest rise or fall.

For the last three or four days we had every now and then seen an antelope, but in consequence of the extreme shyness of the animals none of us had been able to get a shot at one. To-day, however, Jim Wayne, who to his character of humorist and musician, added the qualities of a capital huntsman and woodsman, brought in a young doe slung across the saddle of his horse, singing—

"Merrily the wild stag bounds!"

with his gun crossed in the hollow of his arm, and his hat cocked more gaily than ever.

"Hollo, Jim!" shouted McFarley, who had just come up, "so you've had some luck, I see!"

"Yes, and I have discovered a new method of making cheap bread."

"Say it, my hearty!"

"By finding *doe* to my hand in the prairie."

"Faith an you'll find it well *kneaded* too, (needed) or my stomach's no judge," said the politician with a moistening mouth.

"That last execrable pun entitles you to one of her rump steaks, and I'll see that it is bestowed upon you if it should be the last official act of my life," replied the humorist with dignity as he moved on.

On the following day, 16th, I had agreed with Jim that he and I should take a skirr together, to see if we could not fall upon another animal of the same species; but an incident occurred in the course of the morning that diverted our intentions. A shout from the rear turned our attention in that direction, and splitting away at top speed, we saw a buck antelope coming towards us, followed by some of our dogs in full chase. He had been hiding in a little thicket on our trail, and just as the last waggon passed, some loitering hound had caught the scent and started him up. Instead of striking away from us across the prairie, the frightened animal came direct along the line, and ran down its whole length, extending over two miles, at a distance of not more than two hundred yards. It was a most beautiful, and at the same time a most exciting sight. Away he flew like the wind, at every moment the pack scouring in his rear, receiving new accessions as the chase advanced and at the distance of every few hundred yards a rifle would send its effectual messenger to arrest his course. At length, however, a large hound from one of the foremost waggons seeing the squad approaching, ran down to meet them. The affrighted buck, terrified out of his wits, though plainly headed off, did not sheer an inch from his course, and the dog meeting him with a spring, seized him by the throat and tumbled him to the ground. The animal contrived to raise and shake him off before the rest of the pack arrived, but a rifle ball caught him in the shoulder, and he yielded to his fate by dropping first on his knees and then rolling over on his side upon the plain.

The antelope is a most beautiful animal, and perhaps there is no other creature in creation capable of an equal degree of speed. He is tall, graceful, and stately; shaped something like a deer, clothed in a hide of the same color; and like deer,

the bucks have branching horns, though blacker and smaller in their size.

I had a conversation over the body of the animal, with an old back-woodsman, who told me in instancing the animals fleetness, that he had once a very superior grey hound, which was brought into contest with one of the species in the following manner. The antelope and dog were running at right angles towards each other, the former not discovering the hound until they were within twenty feet of each other. The struggle then commenced, but the antelope shot away from the dog with the most astonishing swiftness. The race lasted for a quarter of a mile, each doing his best, but the antelope had then outran the dog so far, that the latter actually stood still and gazed after him in utter astonishment. Yet the hound had often run down deer and wolves with ease. The antelope is a very wary animal, and consequently very difficult of approach. His curiosity is, however, very great; and the hunter adapting himself to the habits of the animal, conceals himself behind a hillock of sand, or some other object, and putting his hat, cap, or handkerchief upon the end of his ram rod, waves it gently to and fro to attract his attention. As soon as the antelope sees it, he slowly approaches, occasionally pausing with a snort; then gradually advancing again, snifts the air with the utmost suspicion, and though no breath is heard above the humming of the mosquito, will sometimes turn and dash off several yards, to return in like manner again. At length, however, his fate coaxes him within reach of the trusty rifle—a crack follows, and down he goes. He is not very tenacious of life, and a slight wound will bring him to an almost immediate surrender. Notwithstanding his exceeding fleetness, he can be run down when very fat, on horseback, if the chase is continued for twenty miles. My communicant, who had spent several years in the region of the Rocky Mountains, informed me that they are very frequently run down by wolves, and that he had often snatched the jaded prey from these canivorous banditti at the conclusion of a long chase, and appropriated it to himself. I found the flesh of the antelope very delicious eating. It is very juicy, and is generally prized above venison.

CHAPTER IV.

Visit of Pawnees—Arrival at the Platte—Its valley—Its stream—Buffalo paths—Climate—Dodging a sleeper—Buffalo hunts—Buffalo hunting—Directions how to follow it—Buffalo meat.

Our course from the 13th to the 17th, lay up the Republican fork of the Blue river, and at the close of the latter day we had accomplished two hundred and fifty miles from the rendezvous, giving an average of ten miles a day from the start; stoppages and all included. The Kansas country, which is the section through which we had passed, is nineteen twentieths very fertile prairie, but scantily furnished with timber, except upon the streams. This consists generally of elm, low bur oak, cotton wood, small swamp ash, and a few willows, and these as I said before, only grow (with a few solitary exceptions) on the margin of the streams. In consequence of this defect, there are but few portions of it suitable for farming purposes. The whole country is very scarce in game, and we saw none (barring the veteran buffalo) but a few deer and antelope.

The only description of smaller game we saw, was a small kind of snipe, and a very few small birds of other descriptions. The carcass of a half-starved wild cat, killed by one of the company, attested the paucity of her range, among this description of prey. The streams also were very niggard in their yield of fish. The road from Independence to this point, (the crossing point to the line of the Platte.) is through prairie almost altogether, interrupted only by occasional swells, which are far from being an obstacle to travel, The only difficulties are experienced at the fords upon the streams, which are miry, abrupt, and as I have shown, sometimes difficult to cross. You will, nevertheless, not be driven more than once to a raft.

In the afternoon we encamped for the last time upon the Blue River, and this circumstance in connection with the rapid progress of the last three days, put us in a most excellent humor with ourselves. While we were employed in the usual duties and amusements of such a pause, we received the visit of a large party of Pawnees, who approached us from the

south, in which direction they had been on a hunt. They had with them several packs of buffalo meat; the reward of their expedition. They cut this when they butcher it, into long, thin, and wide slices, with the grain of the meat, and then cure it by drying it in the sun. After it is thus dried, they have a mode of pressing it between two peices of wood, which gives it a very smooth and regular appearance. They gave us of it very liberally, and asked for nothing in return. These Indians are a much superior race to the Kansas and Osages; they wear their hair like the whites; their stature is athletic, and their mein noble. While with us, they straggled freely through the camp, and amused themselves very much by imitating our mode of driving the teams. We informed them, before they left, of the massacre of their brother by the Osages and Caws, upon which they set up a howl of wo, and swore revenge with the most violent gesticulations. They left us as they met us, in the most friendly manner, and we did not suffer from their depredations as we had from those of their enemies.

"Hurrah, for the Platte! tira la! tira la!" cried Jim Wayne from his mouth, and blew Jim Wayne on his bugle, as he galloped up and down the line, on the morning of the 18th. "Hurrah for the Platte! Good morning, Mrs. Robbins!—mornin, McFarley—come, stirr about, bustle, bustle, we must reach the Platte to-day! tira la! tira la!" and away went the mad devil repeating the summons in every quarter. All was stir and bustle; the Platte had long been sighed for as the direct line of route that was to lead us straight to the passage of the mountains, and on its bank we had been assured of finding a constant supply of game, Being twenty miles or more away, it was necessary we should bestir ourselves at an early hour, to reach it before night-fall. We accordingly got an early breakfast, and soon the long line of the caravan unwound itself over the undulating fields, to span the main dividing ridge between this tributary of the Kansas and the Great Platte. We travalled all day without any interruption, over the finest road imaginable, and just as the sun was going down behind the bleak sand-hills on its northern bank, we caught our first view of the wide and beautiful valley of the American Nile. Being yet two miles distant from its bank, we halted in the fertile bottom land, after having accomplished a distance of twenty-five miles, congratulating our-

selves with the prospect of plain sailing, and plenty of fresh provender, until we struck the mountains. This was all we had to console us for a cold supper, in consequence of the complete absence of fuel where we were. In the morning, (19th,) we had to start without breakfast, in consequence of this want, but after travelling a few miles, we found plenty of dry willows to serve the purpose, and then made a most voracious meal. We struck the Great Platte near the head of Grand Island.

This was a beautiful island, lying in the centre of the stream, (very wide at this place,) seventy-five miles in length, and covered with the finest timber, while not a solitary tree grew on the south side of the river, where we were.

Having now brought the reader to the grand avenue, which leads the emigrant direct to his future destination, I will not trespass upon his patience by a description of every day's journey and proceedings, but shall content myself by giving him a general view of the route, its characteristics, facilities and extent; thus advancing with greater rapidity to the main subject of inquiry—Oregon itself; and thus avoiding the unnecessary repetitions of diurnal trips, nine-tenths of which would be in their description mere counterparts of those that went before.

The Great Platte, is one of the most remarkable rivers in the world, and when considered with a view to the facility its level banks afford for intercommunication with our Pacific territories, its value is immense. It takes its rise in Wind River Mountain, (in latitude 42½,) a little north of, and near the Great Southern Pass, and runs due east, with scarcely a perceptible deviation of course to the traveller along its banks for a distance of 600 miles, to its junction with its southern branch, and from that point 300 miles more, when it disembogues into the Missouri, in latitude about 41 degs. 30. Like the Nile, it runs hundreds of miles through a sterile wilderness, and like the Nile it unrolls its strip of green across the vastness of the desert, and is the father of all the vegetation near it. In the way of navigation, it is useless; its waters being too shallow in great portions of it even to float a canoe, and in the winter it is bound in ice. Its banks are low and sandy, its waters muddy like the Missouri, and its current very rapid. In consequence of its shallowness it is very easy to ford, except when rains have swollen the stream, and then

its additional force makes it in places extremely dangerous. Though it varies greatly as to width, its average breadth is about two miles, and its centre is frequently diversified with most beautiful islands, large and small, covered with the finest trees whose rich and clustering foliage contrast splendidly with the sand-hills and wide prairie plains on either side. On each side of the river, and at the distance of about three miles from either bank, run a continuous line of sand-hills. From the foot of these, to the water's edge, is spread a sheet of lively verdure, and on the other side, the boundless level is only lost in the line of the horizon.

The banks of the Platte are generally devoid of trees, and we suffered a great scarcity of wood previous to reaching Fort Larimie in consequence; but we frequently found bunches of willows, and more than once, the remains of Indian wigwams of the same material, eked out a substitute for cooking purposes. Our general expedient was to pick up pieces of drift wood from the river, during the day. These we could get at the expense of wading to our knees, and they supplied all our necessities with a little care. But little fuel is required if proper means are used in consuming it; and to proceed correctly, with a view to saving, a narrow ditch should first be dug in the earth about eight inches wide, a foot deep, and about a yard long; this arrangement confines the heat, and prevents the wind from scattering and wasting the fire.

The valley of the Great Platte is from fifteen to twenty miles wide, beyond which line, on either side, the prairies lose a portion of their fertility, and gradually extend towards the west in arid and cheerless wastes. The strip along the banks, of which I spoke before, is filled with the most luxuriant herbage, the sand-hills which bar it from the plain beyond, are about three miles through, and the outer prairie interminable. Within these sand-hills you will find numerous vallies covered with a profuse bottom vegetation, and leading by easy tracts from plain to plain. Upon the outer plain, and sometimes on the sand hills, you will find buffaloes and numbers of white wolves, and upon the inner one, range the antelope and deer. When the season is wet, the buffalo find plenty of water in the ponds or puddles of the outer plain, and, consequently, are not forced to the inner one, or to the river on its edge, for water. As the summer advances, and the ponds dry up, these animals gradually approach the stream,

and are found in numbers in the inner section. As you go along the edge of the river, you are struck with the numerous beaten paths diverging in the direction of the sand hills, and leading across the surface of the farther plain. A stranger is at a loss, at first, to account for such signs of population in a wilderness, but, upon inquiry, they are found to be the tracks made by the buffalo, in their journey to the banks of the stream for water. These paths are cut to the depth of six or eight inches in the soil, and indicate by their narrowness, the habit of the animals in these excursions to proceed in narrow file. In travelling up the Platte, we crossed one of these paths at almost every thirty yards, and they were about the only annoyance we met with upon the surface of the plain. They are serviceable in a high degree in one view, for they afford a perfect security against your getting lost, your simple resource when having strayed far away on a hunt, being, merely to strike a buffalo track, and you are sure to be in a road leading directly to the river, by the nearest route.

The whole road along the line of stream, is doubtless the best in the world, considering its length. The greatest inconvenience attendant on its travel that I know of, is the unconquerable propensity it occasions in one to sleep in the day time. The air is so bland, the road so smooth, and the motion of the vehicle so regular, that I have known many a teamster go to sleep while his team stood winking idly in the road without budging a step. The usual custom with us when such a case as this would occur, was for each waggon in turn to drive cautiously around the sluggard, and leave him to have his nap out in the middle of the road. It would sometimes happen the sleeper would not awake for two or three hours, and when he arrived that time behind in camp, he would either swing round in a towering passion. or slink out of the reach of our merciless tauntings, heartily ashamed.

On the 22d of June we saw the first band of buffalo on the plain near the river. There were about fifty altogether—and they were on their road through the sand hills to the river to drink. We immediately mounted and gave chase, and being fortunately to the leeward, they did not get scent of us until we were well down upon them; then by pushing our horses to their utmost speed, we managed to get near enough for a shot, and a general discharge succeeded in bringing down two of the finest of the lot.

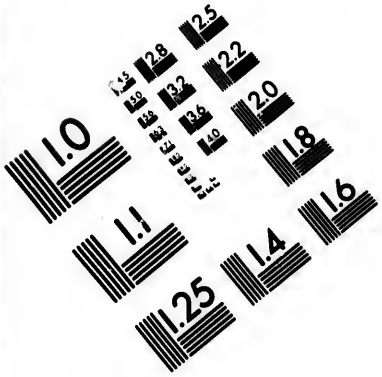
As the buffalo is sometimes a very important item in the emigrant's calculations for food, it will not be improper for me here to devote a few remarks upon the manner of obtaining them.

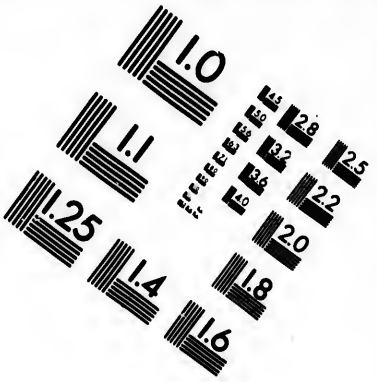
There is perhaps no chase so exciting to a sportsman as a buffalo hunt, and the reader can readily imagine the tremendous addition its interest receives when the stomach has been in rebellion for hours, perhaps for days, from the insidious excitements of the fresh prairie air. The mode of hunting these noble animals is very simple. They are most generally found upon the outer range, grazing near the head of some hollow, leading up towards the sand hills. The sight of the buffalo is very dull, but their scent, by its superior acutenest, compensates for this defect. You must, therefore, always manage, if possible, to get to the leeward of them, or you are almost certain to see the whole herd scamper off before you arrive in pulling distance. As an instance of this, I one day saw a band of about a hundred buffaloes at two miles distance on the opposite side of the river running up its line on a parallel with our train. They did not see us, but the wind being from our side, they caught the scent when about opposite our centre, upon which they turned off instantly at a right angle and scoured away like mad. Approach them to the leeward, however, and you are almost certain to get within easy shooting distance. When you have discovered a herd close up to the line of the hills, you should station your horses in some hollow near at hand, (but out of sight,) and then creep cautiously up to your position, pick out your animals, and fire, one at a time, in slow succession. If you give them the volley, they directly scamper off, and a rapid succession of shots is followed by the same result; but if you load and fire slowly, you may kill several before the whole herd take alarm. I have seen three or four reel down, or bound into the air and fall, without exciting any attention from their indifferent companions. When you have fired as often as you can, with effect, from the position you have taken, and the animals have moved beyond your reach, you should hasten to your horses, mount with all speed, and approach as near as possible without showing yourselves; but when you do, put your horses up to the top of their speed and away after the game as fast as you can go. You may dash at a band of buffaloes not more than a hundred yards off, and though you may think you are

about to plunge into the very midst of them in a moment, you will find if your horse is not well down to his work, they will slip away like legerdemain. Though they appear to run awkwardly, they contrive to "let the links out" in pretty quick succession, and if you suffer them to get any kind of a start, you must expect to have a hard run to overtake them. The better plan, therefore, is to put your horse to the top of his speed at once, and thus by bringing the matter to a climax, you obviate the inconvenience of being drawn to a distance from the camp, and of making your jaded steed carry a wearisome load several miles back.

If you single a bull from cover and he sees no enemy, he will at once lie down, but if you press him on the open plain, when aroused, he will resent the wrong, turn short round, bow his neck and waving his tail to and fro over his back, face you for a fight. At this crisis of affairs, it is well to show him some respect, and keep at a convenient distance. If you will content yourself with fifty yards he will stand and receive your fire all day. As soon as you bring him once to bay you are sure of him, for you may fire as often as you please, and the only indications he gives before going down, of having received a wound, is by a furious kicking at the assaults of his deadly visitant. You must not attempt to kill him by shooting at his head, for you will only spatter your ineffectual lead upon his frontal bone, but shoot him behind the shoulder at the bulge of the ribs, or just below the back bone in the same latitude, and you will pass your ball directly through the thick part of the lungs. This is the most deadly of all shots, for the flow of blood stifles his respiration and suffocates him at once. When excited these animals are very hard to kill, and unless when wounded in this fatal spot, I have seen them so tenacious of existence as to live for hours, even with two or three bullets through their hearts.

The animal though it generally flies pursuit, is capable of the most romantic deeds of daring. An instance of this kind occured on the 27th of June. We had stopped our waggons at noon within half a mile of the river, and while enjoying the comforts of our mid-day meal, we discovered seven large buffalo bulls slowly moving up the opposite shore of the river. When they got directly opposite the encampment, they turned and plunged suddenly into the stream and swam directly towards us as straight as they could come, in the face of wag-





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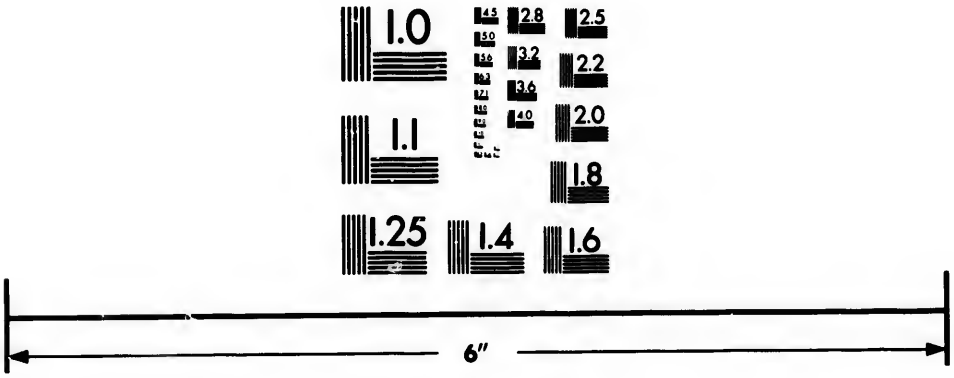

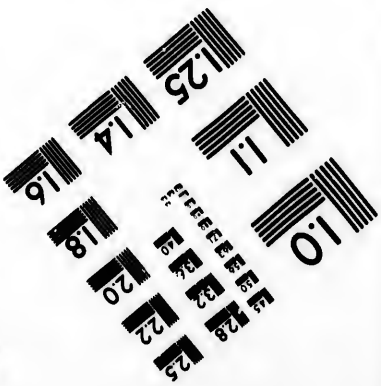

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gons, team, cattle, horses, men and all. Every man prepared his gun, and those on the extreme ends of the line, stretched down to the bank of the river, thus forming a complete semicircle of death for their reception. Notwithstanding we were thus prepared for their approach, we all felt certain they would turn tail and recross the river; but to our complete astonishment, on they came, regardless of our grim and threatening array. They were received with a tremendous bombardment, and down went every bellowing vagabond to the ground. Several of them rose to to their feet, but the storm of death bore them back again upon the sod, and not a single one escaped to profit by this lesson of imprudence.

There is perhaps no flesh more delicious to a traveller's appetite than buffalo meat, particularly that cut from a fat young cow; and it has the peculiar advantage of allowing you to eat as much as you please without either surfeit or oppression. I shall never forget the exquisite meal I made on the evening of the first of June. I had been out hunting all day, was very weary, and as hungry as a whole wilderness of tigers. Out of compassion for my complete fatigue, Mrs. Burnett cooked six large slices from a fat young buffalo for my supper. My extravagant hunger induced me to believe when I first saw the formidable array served up, that I could readily dispose of three of them. I *did* eat three of them, but I found they were but the prologue to the fourth, the fourth to the fifth, and that to the sixth, and I verily believe that had the line stretched out to the crack of doom, I should have staked my fate upon s other and another collop of the prairie king. This story hardly does me credit, but the worst is yet to come, for two hours afterward, I shared the supper of Dumberton, and on passing Captain Gant's tent on my way *home*, I accepted an invitation from him to a bit of broiled tongue; yet even after this, I went to bed with an unsatisfied appetite. I am no cormorant, though I must admit I acted very much like one on this occasion, My only consolation and excuse, however, is that I was not a single instance of voracity in my attacks upon broiled buffalo meat,

CHAPTER V.

Progress of travel—Grand complimentary ball to the Rocky Mountains—Route through the mountains—Its points—Its general character — Passage through the pass — Arrival in Oregon.

On the 29th of June, we crossed the south fork of the Platte. On the 1st of July we crossed the north fork at a distance of thirty-one miles from the passage the day but one before, and then proceeded along its northern bank for a period of nine days, passing in succession the points on the route known as "Cedar Grove," "the Solitary Tower," "the Chimney," and "Scott's Bluffs," until we arrived at Fort Larimie on the 9th; thus averaging, from the time of our crossing the South fork on the morning of the 29th of June, about sixteen miles a day. During this period and this space of march, the weather was uninterruptedly fine, the thermometer ranging from 74. to 83degs. and the face of the road suffering no sensible variation. We paused for a day at Fort Larimie, and resumed our march on the morning of the 11th. From this point throughout, we suffered no further scarcity of timber, but we now began to encounter a few more difficulties from the surface of the road. This we found to be interrupted by bolder undulation, and after we had travelled eight miles further westward, we came to the debris, as it may be called, of the Black Hills, whose occasional abrupt inclinations, now and then caused our teams a little extra straining but did not require us to resort to double ones. This lasted but for a short distance, however, and we were soon on a level route again. On the 16th we struck the Sweetwater, a beautiful little tributary of the Platte, and following its course for one hundred miles, at last came in view, on the afternoon of the 30th, of the eternal snows of the Rocky Mountains. We still had an open route before us, and a portion of the day remained to avail ourselves of it if we pleased; but this event was worthy of the commemoration of an encampment, and we accordingly wound up the line two hours earlier than usual. The hunters of our party had been fortunate this day in obtaining some fine antelope and two fat young buffaloes, and we set out for a regular feast. When the meal was finished, and when the prospective perils which lay in the entrails of those

grim giants had been canvassed again and again, we broke from all grave considerations to consecrate the evening to merriment. The night was beautiful, scarcely a breath stirred the air, and the bright stars in the blue vault above, looked brighter than ever. The camp fires streaming upwards from the prairie plains, flooded the tents with thier mellow light, and made the tops of the quadrangular barricade of waggons, look like a fortification of molten gold. Jim Wayne's fiddle was at once in request, and set after set were sent in upon the sward to foot a measure to its notes. Mc. Farley and Big Pigeon formed two of a party (amongst whom was my old friend, Green, the Missourian,) who listened to the Indian traditions of Captain Gant, and then told their own wonderful stories in return. The revelry was kept up till a late hour, and the result was, that the whole party went to bed worn out with pleasure and fatigue. From this point we pursued a directly western course, crossing in our route two creeks called "BigSandy" and "LittleSandy," and three or four others until we struck Green river, a tributary of the Colorado' which empties its waters into the Pacific, in the Mexican bay of San Francisco. We followed Green river down its course through the monntains for twenty miles, where we struck a branch of it called Black's fork. From thence we turned off in a westerly direction for thirty miles, to Fort Bridget. Still west we proceeded for twenty more, to a branch of the Great Bear river called Big Muddy, and down this branch for thirty-seven miles of fine travel, in a north westerly direction to Great Bear river itself. We now took up the course of Great Bear river, and following it in a north westerly direction for fifty-seven miles, passed a range of hills which run down nearly to its bank; and continuing our course for th -eight miles more, arrived at the Great Soda springs. [illegible] the Great Soda springs, which we left on the 27th of August, we took the course of a valley leading to the great dividing ridge between us and Oregon, and after passing up it to a distance of about forty-five or fifty miles, came upon the wide depression of the mountains that was to lead us into the promised land. This remarkable pass is so gentle in its slope, as to afford no obstacle for the heaviest loaded waggons, and without any difficulty at all, our most cumbrous teams passed through it into the valley of the Saptin, the southern branch of the Columbia. This natural avenue, though surrounded, nay almost overhung

in parts, with immense crags of frowning desolation, was covered, generally, with the softest, and most delighful verdure that had for a long time met our eyes. A beautiful little brook meandered through it; flowers and trees were flourishing along it in profusion, and the sweet scent and soft air that floated in our faces off its fields, half persuaded us that we were suffering the delusion of some fairy dream. Impatient of delay, some dozen or two of us on horseback, plunged into the inviting scene, and led the way at a gallop to a view of the region beyond.

We soon arrived at the waters of the Portneuf, and from this point reined up our panting steeds to gaze upon the valley of Saptin which lay at last before us. In an instant every head was uncovered, and a cheer rang back into the gorge to the ears of our companions, which made every team and waggon crack with renewed exertion. It is impossible to describe the enthusiasm which this event created in our party. Each waggon as it arrived at the point unfolding to the view the region which had been the object of our dearest hopes and the occasion of our weary travel, set up a cheer, which taken up by those behind, rang through every sinuosity of the pass and reverberated along the sides of the beetling crags which hemmed it in. Jim Wayne who was always "about" when any thing of moment was afoot, was among the foremost to reach the point of sight, and there, with his bugle which he had burnished and swung around his neck for the occasion he planted himself, receiving every waggon with "Yankee Doodle," "Hail Columbia," or "The Star-spangled Banner" and only pausing in the tunes, to wave the instrument in the air, in immense sweeps, to the measure of the answering shouts.

This passage was performed on the 29th of August, and on the afternoon of that day we pitched our tents in the valley of the southern arm of the great River of the West. The region we had passed through from the 30th July up to the 29th August, comprised all the passes through the Rocky Mountains, and was by far the most arduous and difficult portion of the whole journey. We performed it, however, without sustaining any loss or injury beyond the bursting of a single tire, and yet averaged while doing it, a distance of about twelve miles a day. In many parts of this region we had to move sharply to secure water and range for our cattle,

and the scarcity of game, forced us, so far as we were personally concerned, pretty much upon the resources of our private larders. Though consisting to a large extent of beetling rock, arid plains, craggy defiles and frowning gorges, nature has provided throughout a large portion of this route, a continuous line of valleys, nourished by gentle rivers, whose fertile banks furnish abundant pasture for your cattle, and provide a road from the eastern to the western limits of the Rocky Mountains and through the spurs of the intermediate region, better than many of the waggon routes in some of the eastern states. The greater portion of this country, however, is a sterile, flinty waste, and except in occasional dots, and in the green ribbons that bind the edges of the stream, is worthless for agricultural purposes. One of the features of this section, of singular interest, is the number of soda springs it contains, of a most remarkable character. They are situated mostly on Great Bear river, at the end of the valley leading up to the great pass. There you will find them, bubbling and foaming, and sending up from their clear depths and gravelly bottoms a continual discharge of gas and steam, as though they were sunken cauldrons of boiling water. They are represented to possess highly medicinal qualities, and it is said the Indians set a great reliance upon their virtues for a numerous class of disorders. One of these springs makes a loud bubbling sound, which can be heard at a great distance, and there are others which eject their waters some distance into the air; and others, in addition to these peculiarities, have a temperature above blood heat. To such an extent do these phenomena prevail, that the surface of the river, in the neighbourhood of those on the shore, is fretted for several hundred yards with large numbers of them, some of which force their jets many inches above the surface. The scenery about this spot is wild and impressive; but though composed mostly of towering rocks, the faithful bunch of grass still fastens to the vales, and offers its tribute of sustenance and refreshment to the cattle.

On the morning of the 30th, we performed our orisons for the first time in Oregon.

For the first time in many dreary days the beetling crags of the Rocky Mountains ran their frowning barriers in our rear, and a broad unbroken plain spread out before us. Our hearts swelled with gratitude and joy, and with these combined emotions came a mingling of surprise, that the passage through

the valley and the shadow of that misrepresented gorge, had proved so slightly formidable in its character. This can only be accounted for by the fact that most of the pioneers upon the route, from need of the experience of others who had gone before, in the direction of their preparations, set out without providing properly against the difficulties and privations of the route. Neglecting the important item of provisions, they have relied entirely upon their rifles, and their chance for game, and the result has been, that their stomachs, pinched by occasional deprivation, have spread their dissatisfaction to the mind, and magnified and discolored every difficulty and trifling inconvenience into a monstrosity of hardship. It may readily be imagined, that a traveller on horseback, who was obliged to fly from rise to set of sun, over a barren patch of desert to obtain range and food, would be anything but flattering in his descriptions of the scene of his sufferings and perils; but a well appointed caravan, carrying water in their vehicles, and driving their provender along with them, would enjoy a greater measure of contentment, and be inclined to treat the account of their way-faring with a far greater degree of fairness and liberality. I do not hesitate to say, as I said before, that any waggon which could perform the journey from Kentucky to Missouri, can as well undertake the whole of this route, and there need be no dread of difficulties, in the way of natural obstructions, of a more serious character. I would be willing to traverse this road twice over again, if I possessed the means to purchase cattle in the States, and this opinion will appear less strange, when I assure the reader that several of the female emigrants feel in the same way disposed for the pleasures of a second expedition. It is true, there is a good of labor to perform on the road; but the weather is so dry, and the air so pure and bland, that one turns to it, as he does to the savory meals of the prairie, with a double alacrity and relish. Besides, many of the cares as well as troubles of a first expedition, would be avoided in the second. Experience would be our pioneer, and the continual apprehension of difficulties of an unknown character ahead, would vanish. We would not be continually harrassed, whether we should abandon our horses at the pass, whether we should be out of provisions, or whether the route was practicable for travellers like us, at all! These uncertainties are dispersed for ever. Emigrants may come now without fear. They will find a road

broken to their use; they know the quantity of provisions they need; they know also the supplies they can gather by their rifles; they know that they will not suffer from want of water, and they have also been made aware that all the property they bring with them, is worth double the value as soon as they arrive. Fuel, it is true, is scarce at some points, but proper care and a little trouble, will provide against any suffering for want of that.

You travel along the banks of streams all the way, and you can almost always reap a harvest of dry willows on the surface of the waters, and where these do not offer, you find an equivalent resource in the sedges of their shores.

CHAPTER VI.

Arrival at Fort Hall—The three regions of Oregon—Salmon Falls—The Saptin and the Platte—Fort Boise—Bunrt River—The Lone Pine—"Woodman spare that tree"—The Grand Round—Scientific speculation of Mr. Mc Farley—A fall of snow—An Indian traffic.

We killed a bullock this morning in a fit of extravagance, and after replenishing ourselves with a most substantial breakfast, set out with renewed energies and brightened prospects. We arrived in the afternoon at Fort Hall, a trading post, built by Mr. Wyeth, now belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, on the Snake, Saptin or Lewis's River, and encamped in a fine piece of timber land, under cover of its wooden battlements. We passed a most pleasant evening in exchanging civilities with its inmates, who were not a little surprised at this tremendous irruption in their solitude. Some of the members told us that they could scarcely believe their eyes when they saw the immense stretch of our line, the number of our lowing herds and our squads of prancing horsemen, and they inquired laughingly if we had come to conquer Oregon, or devour it out of hand. They treated us, however, with every attention, and answered with the utmost patience and particularity, all our inquiries in relation to the country.

We paused here a day to recruit our cattle, and when we

set out in the morning following, (1st September,) we received a parting salute from one of the guns of the fort, and answered it with a volley from our small arms. Our journey to-day commenced through a piece of country well timbered, and possessing a soil apparently capable of raising the grains and vegetables of the States. I learned, however, that the climate of this region is subject to frequent frosts, the severity of which are fatal to agricultural operations of any magnitude.

Oregon, or the territory drained by the Columbia, is divided by immense high mountain ranges into three distinct regions, the climate and other natural characteristics of which are entirely different from each other. The first region is that lying along the coast of the Pacific, and extending in the interior to the line of the Cascade range; the second region lies between the Cascade chain and the Blue mountains, and the third, between the Blue and the Rocky mountains.

The first of these has a warm, dry and regular climate, and it is the abode of continual fertility. The second, or middle region, consists chiefly of plains between ridges of mountains, the soil of which is poor. The timber also is very scarce, upon it, and what there is is soft and poor. The climate during the summer is agreeable and salubrious; but the winter brings with it frequent rains. Many of its plains, though generally unfit for agricultural purposes, are covered continually with an abundant crop of short grass, which renders it a splendid field for raising stock, and for grazing purposes.

The third region is called *the high country,* and is a mere desert, consisting of ridges of rocks of volcanic strata and alternate sandy plains. It has its occasional fertile spots, it is true, but they are few and far between. Its distinguishing features are its excessive dryness, and the extraordinary difference of the temperature between night and day. This extremity amounting sometimes to a variation of 40 or even 50 degrees, is modified in the approach toward the middle region, but this outside section is doubtless incapable of being reclaimed to any great extent by the hand of man.* We emerged from the patch of vegetation around Fort Hall in a

* Mr, Wyeth saw the thermometer on the banks of Snake river, in August, 1832, mark eighteen degrees of farenheit at sunrise, and ninety-two degrees at noon of the same day.

few hours upon wide barren plains of yellow sandy clay, which among its short and dry grass, bore nothing but the wild wormwood and the prickly pear, with here and there some stunted cotton wood or willow.

We crossed the Portneuf at the distance of eleven miles from our starting place, and still kept along the lower bank of the Saptin, the country remaining the same in its character—a desert wilderness except in the partial vegetation on its streams. We found the evenings now getting to be quite cold; the nipping air driving us to our camp fires and directing our attention to extra coverlets; but the morning sun after getting an hour high, would give us another temperature, and till evening came again, we would have genial summer weather.

We reached the Salmon Falls (or Fishing Falls as they are called from the great numbers of fish which abound in them) on the 11th, after having passed through a piece of country still the same in its barren and volcanic character, for the distance of one hundred and forty miles from Fort Hall. We here caught an abundance of fine salmon, and after a short enjoyment of the sport, moved onward on our course. Our eagerness, now that we had conquered the Rocky mountains, to get to the limit of our final destination, was extreme.

On the 14th we arrived at Boiling Spring. The country around this spot was wild in the extreme, the same arid, volcanic plain, flowing its sterile billows on before us—a vast lake of barren waste, hemmed in and bound by shores of beetling crags and towering mountains.

We were all the journey up to this point, still on the western bank of the Lewis or Saptin river, but we crossed to its eastern shore above these springs, and followed the course of the other side. As this river is of the same importance to the emigrant for his travel in this region, as the Great Platte is for the Western Prairies, it is deserving of a special notice. The Platte is a tributary to the Missouri, and unrolls its loveliness and vegetation from the States to the Rocky Mountains; while the Saptin takes up the task on the western side of this stupendous barrier and leads the wayfarer in the same manner along its banks, until it yields its waters to the Columbia near Wallawalla.

Another striking feature of similarity is, that the country on either side of the Rocky mountains is a dry and barren desert for the space of two hundred miles. Through these sierras roll the streams of the respective rivers, trellicing the vast and naked wastes, with their strips of fruitful green.

The head waters of the Lewis, Snake or Saptin river, as it is variously called, rise in the mountains between the 42d and 44th degree of latitude. Thence it flows westwardly, passing through a ridge of the Blue mountains, and so on northwestwardly to its junction with the Columbia, receiving in its way the Malade, the Waptitacos, the Salmon River, the Malheur, the Burnt River, Powder River, and others of less significance. The rapids on it are extensive and frequent, and in consequence, the river is not navigable, except in occasional spots of still water between.

Forty-eight miles more through deserts sprinkled with volcanic rock, and we struck the Boisé river. We had deverged from the bank of the Saptin into a valley stretching northwest, which brought us to the Boisé. We crossed this stream at its junction with the Saptin, and thence followed the eastern bank of the latter for eight or nine miles, until we arrived at Fort Boisé. This was on the morning of the 20th of September. For the last twenty miles, the country had changed its character entirely. As soon as we struck the valley of the Boisé, instead of parched and sandy plains, cut rock and frowning crags, our eyes were gladdened with green vales, flowering shrubs and clustering timber lands. The grateful sight was welcomed with a common spring of joy, and our wearied and hunger pinched cattle revelled in the luxuries of its heavy herbage.

On the 22d we left Fort Boisé, and after travelling over an excellent road for fifteen miles, we came to a creek in the latter part of the afternoon. This we crossed without serious difficulty, and encamped upon its western bank. Throughout this day the wind had blown quite cool from the N. W. and we had to suffer also from an impoverished and scanty range and a scarcity of fuel.

On the 23d we started off again with the same cutting wind that had visited us the day before, and which staid with us over night. Our road to-day was tolerably good, and after having accomplished sixteen miles over it, we brought our

day's journey to a close on the bank of a dry creek, with no water at hand, except what we found in a sort of puddle in its bed. Two miles further on would have taken us to a good encampment, with plenty of fine range and water, but the Indian pilot who had been employed for us by Dr. Whitman, was ahead, and out of reach with the foremost waggons.

On the 24th we had to encounter a very hilly road, which retarded our progress most seriously. The hills, however, were not high, neither were they rugged or abrupt, but they were frequent and thence our difficulty. We saw the Saptin to-day for the last time, for it now left our track in a bold northward curve till it returned to the Columbia near Walla-walla. We were able to make no more than ten miles to-day, encamping at the close upon another creek called Burnt river. This stream derives its title from the numerous fires which have consumed portions of the timber on its banks. This consists principally of cotton wood and birch, which abound in its valley; and these are also intermixed with aspen and willow. The stream does not deserve the name of a river, being merely an ordinary sized creek, but as others of less importance claim that title in this region, it may as well be accorded to it.

September 25th we started up the line of the Burnt river. The valley of the stream is very narrow, at some points being not more than twenty yards across, and it is hemmed in by mountains on either side. Though it abounds in timber, quite a safe and passable road could be made through it by clearing out the space for a track, but to do this effectually, several crossings of the stream would have to be made. This could easily be performed in consequence of its low banks and firm bottom, but we had no time to clear out the way, and of late the tortuousness of the roads had so scattered and divided our company, that we proceeded helter skelter along in separate detachments, each following, as best it could, the careless lead of those who went before. We were thus betrayed into many difficulties that might have been avoided, if an orderly arrangement had been preserved. Sometimes the turn only of a few yards would have saved us the most obstructive hills and hollows, and I am informed that the course of the river could have been avoided altogether by a turn to the left, which strikes the trail near Powder river, running in an extensive plain, remarkable for a solitary tree

in its midst, known as "The Lone Pine." But if this should not be the case,* I would advise future emigrants to select some eight or ten good men to send on ahead, to search for the most eligible route, and, if neeessary, to clear one. This will save them much trouble. The range from this spot to the end of the journey is most excellent; the bunch grass is plentiful in the valleys and in the sides of the hill, and there are plenty of rushes along the banks of the stream. We made but eight miles to-day.

On the 26th, the road got worse, if anything than before, and after floundering through hills and hollows, for six miles, we struck a hill of most difficult ascent, that required us to double our teams. Yet even this hill, as well as another still more difficult, which we descended, might have been entirely avoided by an advance of two hundred yards further up the stream, where nature has furnished an easy ascent round the sides of both. This, however, was not discovered until all the waggons had passed. The above hill is the first we have met in our road, which obliged us to double our teams.

September 27th.—We were visited last night by a sharp, keen frost, and when we turned out in the morning we found shivering chill still lingering among the valleys of the surrounding mountains. This morning we emerged from our troublous passage through the immediate valley of the river, and struck a beautifully undulating valley which fringed with its luxuriant productions the border of a lovely plain. In the mixed vegetation which here abounded in rich profusion, we found red hawes and cherries in abundance, and also a description of elder berries, which, unlike ours, that are of an insipid sweet, have a delicious tartness, somewhat similar in flavor to winter grapes before they are touched with the frost. In the course of the day we passed a Kiuse village, and after completing twelve miles over a good road, halted for the night.

September 28th.—Our route to-day lay through a beautiful valley surrounded on all sides by the overtopping ridges of the Blue Mountains, their huge bases clothed with immense forests of majestic pines, and their stupendous tops gleaming with everlasting snow. Above their dazzling peaks were piled in grand confusion, masses of fleecy clouds, through the irre-

* It is the case.

gular breaks of which the clear azure of the vault above showed its softening contrast, and the sharp rays of the sun poured their floods of radiance. But through all the towering terrors of these mountains, our sweet little valley still wound on, offering its velvet verdure and its gentle surface to facilitate our progress. In the afternoon we emerged upon an extensive plain, which I have mentioned before as remarkable for a solitary tree in its centre. This noble monarch of the plain is a magnificent pine, rearing its head alone amid the level blank of the prairie, that bears no other object on its surface for miles together, higher than a stunted shrub. As we approached this lonely hermit, I could not resist an impression of sadness, and the idea was forced upon my mind that it had stood there a sapling among a million of its kind, and that when centuries ago, the mastodon and the behemoth abandoned for ever their sombre depths, the forest followed on, leaving this solitary scion of their race behind, to mark the spot over which they had waved their sheltering foliage since the beginning of the world.

This splendid outcast has long been known to all travellers in this region as "The Lone Pine," and it could not possibly have received a more expressive and appropriate designation. I was about six miles distant from it when it first attracted my attention, and as we progressed I kept regarding it with admiration, at intervals of every few moments. When but a little more than a mile off, I noticed that the leaders of our line were circling round it and making demonstrations of an encampment. From the surface of the plain my eyes travelled naturally to the summit of the tree, when I was struck with its unusual motion. I thought I saw it tremble. I was seized with a sudden apprehension, but unwilling to yield to it, I rubbed my eyes and looked again. In the next moment my horse was galloping at top speed over the space that separated me from it, while I, regardless of the distance, was waving my arms to those around it, and shouting to them to desist.* I was too late; before I had accomplished half the distance, the majestic monarch tottered for a moment from its perpendicular, then sweeping downwards through the air, thundered in ruin upon the plain. I could have wept for vexation, to see this noble land-mark, which had braved the assaults of

* See Fremont's Journal, page 180.

time through a thousand winters, thus fall an inglorious victim to the regardless axe of some back-wood's Vandal. It had been cut by some inconsiderate emigrants for fuel; a necessity that could have been more easily and much better supplied, by a profusion of small dead willows that were strewed about; for the pine was so green that it could not be made to burn at all. We this day accomplished eighteen miles.

September 29th.—We left the plain and its prostrate landmark this morning, and in the middle of the day entered another valley, as rich in its fertility as the one of the day before, and like it, it also ran between two immense parallel ranges of snow-topped mountains, the sites of which, a little way below the vegetation line, were covered with thick forests of pine to where their bases were lost in the bottom swells. The range along here, was very superior, and the surrounding proofs of general fertility gave evidence of its being admirably adapted to grazing purposes. The soil is most excellent, but the drought at the same time, must often be severe. Most of this beautiful valley might be irrigated from the tributaries of Powder River, (itself a tributary of the Saptin,) several of which we had to cross in following the course of this wide valley prairie. Twelve miles to-day.

September 30th.—Travelled nine miles over an excellent road, with the exception of the last half mile, which was rocky and perplexed; but this might have been escaped as we afterwards found, had we turned down an opening to our right, which we had rejected on passing, but which led through a smooth and easy passage directly to the place where we finally encamped.

October 1st.—We this day came to the "Grand Round," the name of an immense valley, one hundred miles in circumference, which will vie in fertility with the valley of the Missouri, or indeed, with any spot in the world. Trees of all kinds are sprinkled throughout its surface; shrubs, flowers, brooks, singing birds, meadow lark, and other winged game diversify it, with many other of the attrractions of more lavish regions, and its general temperature is guaranteed by the evidences of its prodigal vegetation. The Grand Round is nearly circular in its form and lies embosomed in the Blue Mountains, which here, like their predecessors before described, are covered from bottom to top with lofty pines in studded for-

ests. The bottom of this magic circle is rich, level prairie land, trelliced with crystal springs issuing from its surrounding mountain border, which, with but slight assistance from the art of man, could easily be made to irrigate the whole surface of the valley.

In this region abounds a peculiar vegetable called Kamas root, which has a sweet and pleasant taste, and which is als very nutritious food. It is about the size of a partridge egg, and is cured by being dried upon hot stones. We purchased large quantities of it from the numerous Indians we found in the vicinity.

In this region also may be found one of the most wonderful creations of nature, existent in the world. This is a pond or well, of boiling salt water, hot enough for cooking purposes, and bottomless in its depths. The steam arising from it may be seen at the distance of several miles, and resembles the vapor arising from a salt furnace. It occasioned no small degree of conjecture among the various savans and philosophers of our party, and not a few were the opinions expressed as to its cause. McFarley, however, gave the most satisfactory account of any, to the inquiries. He represented the meridian of Grand Round to be exactly opposite to Mount Vesuvius, on the other side of the globe; that that tremendous volcano "had been burnin long afore Christ, and it stood to reason, as it eat deeper and deeper into the bowels of the earth, it must eventually come out on the other side." He believed this spring to be an indication of its approach to the western surface, and that "the superincumbent weight of water upon the spot was all that kept it for a time from burstin to a vent." He then added his deliberate opinion, that ere long, the area of the Grand Round would be the scene of a tremendous eruption and the circle of mountains which hemmed it in, would be the ruin of its crater.

This notice created no small alarm among some of our folk, and a very extensive opinion prevailed that it was better to move on as soon as possible, and give Vesuvius a chance.

I should have mentioned before, that previous to our entering the "Grand Round," we had to descend an abrupt declivity of three or four hundred feet, covered with lose rocks, as large, and, in some cases larger than a man's head. This was by far the worst hill we had yet descended, but by locking

both hind wheels, and with teams so well trained as ours, we all descended in about three hours without hurt or injury to a single soul, and no damage was done to our truck beyond a slight crush of one side of a waggon body.

October 2d.—We ascended a hill, or rather a mountain, at the edge of the "Grand Round," and then descended it in an extensive declivity on the other side, ending at a fine running creek for which I could find no name, but on the banks of which we encamped. Both of these hills, the one at the entrance and the other at the outlet of the Great Round, might be better avoided by turning to the left upon the mountain side and passing them altogether. We passed during the latter part of this day, through large bodies of heavy pine timber, and I will take this occasion to remark, that of the Blue mountains were the first considerable bodies we had seen since we left the banks of the Kansas.

October 3rd.—We were obliged to-day to ascend and descend three very bad hills, and to pass over eight miles of a very rough and difficult road, a portion of it running through a tract heavily laden with pine. We cut through this a road for the waggons, and it now offers much greater facilities for those who follow.

October 4th.—This day our route stretched through the still continuous pine, but they were more sparely scattered than before, and our progress consequently was more easy. The weather was cold and bleak.

October 5th.—A slight fall of snow this morning brought us to our heaviest clothing, and increased the size of our early camp fires. The roads were excellent before us, but in consequence of two bad hills, and the disposition to linger round our fires, we did not make more than eight miles, after completing which, we went early to camp.

On the 6th, we descended the Blue Mountains, by an easy and gradual declination over an excellent road, and encamped on the banks of the Umatilla river, near a Kiuse village. This stream, like most of the rivers we had crossed in Oregon, was nothing more than a good sized creek. Its waters were beautifully clear, and its banks were studded with an abundance of cotton wood timber. We were now in the second region of Oregon, and from the moment we had descended from the mountains we felt the difference of the two climates. The

one we had left being sharp and severe, and this being mild and dry, and offering in its abundant grasses superior facilities for stock raising and grazing.

After descending from the region of the pine, we had now come into a country of broad sandy plains, intermized with a yellowish clay, productive, as I have said before, of abundant herbage, but destitute of timber, except upon the margin of the streams. From this point to the Columbia at Wallawalla, is between forty and fifty miles through continuous plains, varied only with occasonal hills of sand. This surface, except in the vallies of the streams, is sandy and sterile, yet in its least favored sections it bears a description of scattering bunch grass, upon which the cattle become very fat.

We found the Indians of this village very friendly, and exceedingly anxious to trade with us. They proved their degree of civilization and advance in the arts of agriculture, by bringing us large quantities of Irish potatoes, peas, corn and kamas root, for which we gave them in exchange, clothes, powder, ball, and sundry trifles. They raise a large number of horses, by the luxuriant pasturage of the surrounding country, and were continually pressing them upon us for sale, offering two of the finest that we might select, for one of our cows. Seduced by the delights and comforts of this place, after the weary wayfaring we had just passed through in the upper region, we determined to remain here a day to recruit, and we accordingly gave ourselves up to a regular frolic, during which the peas, corn and potatoes, with nice spare ribs, fish and steaks to match, vanished from the earth like witchcraft.

Let me remark, for fear that I may overlook it, that while travelling on the Burnt river, and while passing through the Blue mountains, we had much trouble in finding our stock in the morning, as they wandered off in the bushes during the night, and often strayed out among the hills after the bunch grass. We found the road along this river, and through these mountains, the worst of the whole route, and indeed, nearly all the bad road we saw at all. Lieutenant Fremont who came behind us, and who had Mr. Fitzpatrick for a guide, went further down the Grand Round to the right, came out at a different point, and made his way through the Blue mountains by a route, which he states, to be more safe and easy by far than the one by which we came. Our route, at any rate, can be so improved with a small amount of labor as

to be quite practicable, and even as it was, we came through it with our waggons in perfect safety, without even unloading them at a single point. Many, if not most of the bad hill we had passed, could have been avoided or overcome, with a very little labor.

CHAPTER VII.

Arrival at Doctor Whitman's Mission—Perplexity—Conflicting Councils—Division into Squads and successive departures—Progress of the Advance Guard to Vancouver—Our arrival at Fort Wallawalla—Arrangements with its Commander—Naval Operations—Boat Building—the Grand Rapids—the Falls—the Little Dalles—the Grand Dalles—the Whirlpool—Death in the Rapids—General Characteristics of the Middle Region; its Indians, their Habits and Pursuits.

On the 8th October, we moved on and encamped in the afternoon within twenty miles of the Methodist mission establishment, kept by Dr. Whitman, on the banks of a little tributary of the Wallawalla; but not finding the pasturage to our liking, we moved on the next day a few miles further in advance, and finding a prairie offering us all the advantages we sought, the section to which I was attached, determined to make a halt for a few days, to recruit our weary and way worn cattle. Most of the party had advanced before us and were already at the mission, but we, in consequence of our halt, which continued through a period of five days, did not reach there until the 15th. The mission establishment is situated on the north east bank of a small stream emptying into the Wallawalla, around which there are two or three hundred acres in good cultivation, and on the other side of the stream, was the grist mill, where the Doctor converted his grains into flour. It was in a very delapidated condition when we saw it, but the Doctor informed us that he had made arrangements to rebuild it, and make it an efficient feature of his little colony.

This settlement has existed here under the care of the doctor and his excellent wife, ever since 1834, and by his perse-

vering industry he has fairly coaxed civilization into the very bosom of the wilderness. The stream on which the mission house is situated is from fifteen to twenty yards in width; its clear cool waters run over a gravelly bed at the rate of five or six miles to the hour, and its banks, on either side, are ornamented with groves of flourishing timber, and flowering shrubery, that are the usual accompaniments of fertility of soil and geniality of climate. The valley of this stream is about thirty miles in circumference, and is a favorite spot with the Kiuse for raising horses, numbers of which we found galloping about in all their native freedom over its plains.

Upon our arrival, we found the pasturage in the immediate vicinity of the mission much eaten out by these animals; but a few miles further back, towards the mountains, it flourished in unsurpassed profusion. We found at Doctor Whitman's every thing to supply our wants, and he furnished us with fine wheat at one dollar per bushel, and potatoes for forty cents. His supply of the first gave out, but he had corn and potatoes in abundance.

While pausing at this place, we were agitated and perplexed in the extreme what course to take in relation to the arrangements we should make for the successful conclusion of our expedition. We were assailed with various opinions from every one we met, and in the general indicision were for a time brought to a dead stand. Most of the residents of the mission agreed in advising us to leave our cattle and waggons at this point, or if we did take them to the Dalles or narrows (a point on the Columbia, 120 miles in advance) to send them back here to winter. Others told us that we could not reach the Dalles with our teams, as jaded as they were, as we would find no range along the course of the Columbia. All, however, seemed to think that it would be impossible for us to get our waggons, or our cattle, to the Willamette this fall. But we had already overcome too many difficulties to admit the word *impossible* as a part of our vocabulary. We could not remain where we were for a number of reasons. The pasturage was too scanty; the width of range would not allow us to keep our stock together, and we suffered an additional danger of their loss from the dishonest practices of the Indians, who, if they did not steal them outright, led them off, for the purpose of being paid to bring them in. Many of us were obliged

to pay a shirt (the price uniformly charged by the Indians for every service) for three or four successive mornings, to get back the same animal, and this was a kind of tribute that if kept up, would make fearful inroads upon your wardrobe. The majority of the emigrants therefore resolved to attempt the threatened dangers to the actual evils that now beset us. Accordingly they set out in squads, on successive days, and before the end of the month, all had reached the Dalles in safety. What surprised them most, after the representations which had been made, was the fine pasturage they met with all along the way, and especially at the Dalles, where, we had been led to believe the cattle could not subsist at all during the winter. As the parties to which I now allude, preceeded me, I may as well continue this anticipatory account of the route as far as it concerns their progress. They struck off in a south westerly direction, leaving the sterility of the river's bank, and instead of perishing for want of range, their cattle even improved all along the way. Some of them left their waggons at theDalles, and drove their cattle through the Cascade mountains, conveying their baggage and families on pack horses through the mountain paths; and some went down the river by the boats. But the greatest portion of them constructed rafts of dead pine timber, a few miles below the Dalles, large enough to carry six or eight waggons, and upon these floated safely down to the Cascades on the Columbia. Their cattle were driven down the river's bank about thirty miles, then swam across and were driven down the other bank to Vancouver. Here the party obtained boats from Dr. Mc Laughlin, the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company's establishments in Oregon, and returned to the Cascades for such of the families, waggons and baggage as had been left behind. This method was found to be, of all, the most successful. By the first of December, all the emigrants had arrived at Vancouver, but the greatest portion of them had reached there as early as the fifteenth of the preceeding month.

The large portion of the emigration to which I belonged, arrived at Fort Wallawalla, on the 16th of October. This we found to be a rough parallelogram constructed out of the drift wood drawn from the river during the annual rise of the Columbia, in June and July. It is situated on the northern bank of the Wallawalla, just where it joins the Columbia. We

found a Mr. Mc Kinley, a very intelligent scotchman, in charge of this post, and at his hands received every civility and attention. This gentleman proposed to us a conditional arrangement, subject to the ratification or refusal of Doctor McLaughlin, his superior, at Vancouver, in regard to our cattle. He represented the impossibility of our conveying them to Vancouver, and to save us any loss, offered to take them for himself, and give us an order on the Doctor for an equal number of Spanish cattle of the same age and gender, in the possession of the latter at the before-mentioned station. If Dr. McLaughlin disapproved of the arrangement, Mr. Mc Kinley was to hold our cattle subject to our order, and to receive one dollar per head for their keeping. This was a pretty acute arrangement of his, as we afterwards found, but as it eventuated in nothing but a temporary deprivation of our beasts, we did not have occasion to regard it as a very serious matter. As soon as this arrangement was made, we went to work briskly in building boats from material which we sawed out of the drift wood of the stream, and having all our preparations completed on the 20th, we set out on that day with Indian pilots for our guides.

The Columbia at Wallawalla, is a beautiful clear and calm stream, and about as wide as the Ohio at Louisville, Kentucky. We made fifteen miles the first day, and on the morning of the second, passed in safety the Grand Rapids, one of the most dangerous points on the river. From this point to the falls, about ten miles above the Dalles, we passed through many severe rapids and narrow passes. At the falls, where the whole Columbia tumbles down a perpendicular ledge of rocks from a height of ten feet, we were obliged to draw our boat from the stream and make a portage of about three quarters of a mile, and then launch he anew. This was done with the help of a party of Indians, thirty-five in number, whom we found at the place of our landing, and whom we employed to shoulder our baggage and carry our boat the necessay distance; giving to each of them for the service, five loads of powder and ball, and to their chief, a shirt and some tobacco. These fellows seemd to understand their interests very well, and subserved them often with as much acuteness as thorough Yankees. Employ all, or none, was the word, and until we had made a fair business arrangement with the chief, not a lop ear would lend a hand to any of our work. The chief

spoke English very well; was a tall, fine looking fellow, dressed in the broadcloth costume of a white man, and wore upon his feet, instead of moccasins, a pair of very fine shoes. His authority appeared to be absolute, and the moment he gave the word of command every thing was performed with the regularity of clock work. Our boat, which was a superior one, that I had procured by especial favor from Mr. Mc Kinley, had now far outstripped all the rest, and indeed, when we left the river for the portage, the remainder of the flotilla* had been out of sight for several hours. After our launch, we pursued the stream for four or five miles, when we struck little Dalles. This is a narrow channel, rushing in whirlpools and dangerous rapids through two precipitous walls of rock. Here we were obliged again to put our families on shore to lighten the boat, and to procure some Indians to take her through the gorge. Below this point, and between it and the Grand Dalles, we encountered some severe and threatening rapids, all of which, however, we safely overcame. The Grand Dalles is a narrow channel cut through the solid rock, over which it used to flow and fall, by the mere force of the stream. This channel is about two miles in length, and runs between perpendicular walls of basaltic rock, which fence it in on either side, to the height of four or five hundred feet. When the river is low, it may be navigated with but little danger, but if swollen, it is death to attempt it, and a portage of necssity be made. We employed some more Indians here, but Isaac Smith, our intrepid waterman, insisted upon acting as the coxswain. It was fortunate for us he did, for when we were about in the middle of the pass, the stroke paddle snapped in two, pitching the Indian who worked it nearly over the bows, and the boat suddenly twisted around and shot down the stream stern forwards. Smith alone was calm, and seizing a paddle from the red skin nearest to him, shouted in a voice of authority, which danger sanctions in superiority, "Down! down! every soul of you!" Fixing his eye upon a whirlpool ahead, he waited until we reached it, and then adroitly striking his paddle in the water, by a dexterous movement whipped her head into the circling eddy, and checking it instantly on the other side, before she could repeat the motion, our little craft shot like an arrow from the perilous spot, head on again, into a smoother current. Smith drew a heavy

* See Fremont's Journal, page 189.

sigh of relief as he handed the paddle back, and sat down in his place without evincing any other sign of satisfaction at the triumphant result of his exploit.

The Columbia river above this point can never be made safe for boats of any size; the navigation being difficult and uncertain, even at low water; and when high, as I said before, it is quite impassable. But the day after our passage, one of Captain Applegate's skiffs upset with three men and three boys. Two of the boys and one of the men were drowned. The former were about ten years old—one of them was the son of Captain Jesse Applegate, and the other of Lindsay Applegate. The man drowned was an old man named Mc Clelland, who steered the skiff.

During our passage from the Wallamette to the Dalles, we saw no timber on the Columbia river, or near it, indeed no bolder vegetation appeared than a few occasional willows near its brink. The Indians are numerous all along its line, and are exceedingly thievish, stealing without hesitation every thing they can lay their hands on. The reason of their being so numerous in this quarter is, that the Falls and the Dalles are the great fisheries of the Columbia river, where immense numbers of salmon are annually taken by these primative fishermen.

Before leaving this region, I will remark, that the portion we saw of it in our passage down the river, was of a description that should by no means be taken as an evidence of its general character. Beyond the immediate line of the Columbia, which is a tract of blank, discouraging sterility, stretch numbers of fertile plains, which, though not adapted to the general purposes of agriculture, produce a rich, continual and abundant herbage, admirably adapted to grazing purposes, and indeed rendering it second to no region in the world for raising stock. Its surface is almost a thousand feet above the level of the sea, and it is generally a rolling prairie country, with the exception of that portion about a hundred, or a hundred and fifty miles to the north, which is barren and rugged, and much broken by rivers and mountain chains. It is in this section that all the horses are reared for the supply of the Indians and the traders of the interior. "It is not uncommon," says Captain Wyeth, "that one Indian owns hundreds of them. I think this section for producing hides, tallow, and beef, superior to any part of North America; for

with equal facilities for raising the animals, the weather in the winter when the grass is best, and consequently the best time to fatten the animals, is cold enough to salt meat, which is not the case in Upper California. There is no question that sheep might be raised to any extent in a climate so dry and so sufficiently warm, and where so little snow or rain falls. It is also the healthiest country I have ever been in, which, I suppose arises from the small quantity of decaying vegetable matter, and there being no obstruction from timber to the passing winds."

The premium portion of this whole region, I have been informed, is the Nez Perces county, which takes its name from one of the tribes inhabiting it. The region, however, in the vicinity of Mr. Spaulding, an American missionary, who has an establishment on the Saptin, a few miles above its junction with the Columbia, is thought to be the finest of all. He has a fine herd of cattle and a very numerous lot of sheep, and I am informed upon good authority, that his ewes have lambs twice a year, The whole surrounding country is covered with a heavy bunch grass which remains green during the whole winter. This generally dries up during the summer heats of July, but it is then as good as hay, and the slight rains in the fall make it shoot up at once, after which it remains green till the succeeding summer. I saw it in October as green as a wheat field.

While at Wallawalla I saw Ellis, the chief of Nez Perces. He spoke the English language very well, and I found him to be quite intelligent and well versed in the value and the rights of property. He has a fine farm of thirty acres in good cultivation, a large band of cattle, and upwards of two thousand beautiful horses. Many of the Kiuses have, as Wyeth says, hundreds of these noble animals. They have a great desire to acquire stock, of which they have already a considerable quantity, and yearly go to the Willamette and give two of their finest horses for one cow. In a few years from this time these Indians will have fine farms and large herds of cattle. They have already made great progress in civilization, and evince a strong desire to imitate the whites in everything they do. This is shown in a very remarkable degree, by their fondness for our dress, the meanest portion of which, strange to say, they have the strongest passion for. As I said before, they uniformly charge a *shirt* for every service they perform,

and to such an extent do they carry their admiration of this graceful article, that I have seen some of them with nothing else on under heaven besides, but a pair of old boots and a worn out hat, parading up and down for hours with the most conceited strut, as if they were conscious of attracting universal admiration.

Grain grows very well in the vicinity of Mr. Spaulding's, as also do potatoes and garden vegetables generally. It also produces fine corn, but for this the soil requires irrigation. Mr. Spaulding last year raised four hundred and ten bushels upon four acres. The ground was measured in the presence of five gentlemen, and its quantity accurately ascertained. It was sown in drills.

CHAPTER VIII

Arrival at the Dalles Mission—Continuation of journey down the river—Scenery of the Columbia—The Cascades—Indian tradition—Arrival at Vancouver—The Chief Factor—Mr. Douglass—Conduct of the Hudsons Bay Company to Emigrants—Jumping the rapids—Penalty of braving the Cascades—Stock raising—Condition of the settlement at Vancouver—Prices of goods in the territory.

After we had passed the narrow and dangerous channel of the Dalles, we came out into a smooth and calm surface of river, over which our little craft glided with a quiet rapidity. We now for the first time caught a glance at a seal, occasionally popping his head above the level of the stream and as quickly withdrawing it on our approach, and as we progressed we found their numbers increased. This animal abounds in the Columbia from this point to the sea, and it is also found in considerable quantities in the Willamette, below the falls of that river.

A mile's sail from the fret of the Dalles brought us to the Methodist mission establishment under the charge of Messrs. Perkins and Brewer, which is commonly known as the Dalles Mission.

The mission houses stand on a most commanding and eli-

gible site on the south-west side of the river. When you ascend the bank, the sward runs before you in a gentle and regular inclination for about a mile, when it joins a line of hills of moderate altitude, covered with a profusion of pine timber, intermixed with some scattering white oak. Just at the foot of the hill, and on the edge of this timber, stand the mission houses, and between them and the river, are sprinkled numerous Indian huts or lodges, whose rude inmates are the object of the missionaries philanthropic care. Immediately to the south-west, is a fine mill stream, and directly below it a rich bottom prairie, skirted with yellow pines and oak. This plain is about large enough for three fine farms, and can easily be irrigated from the stream I have just alluded to. The grazing in the vicinity of this spot extends in a circumference of twenty or thirty miles, and offers facilities at a very trifling expense, for raising great numbers of sheep, horses, and other cattle, and the mast from the white oak will support numerous droves of hogs.

The Dalles mission is at the head of the practical navigation of the Columbia, and I regard it as one of the most important stations in the whole territory. It is a point which all who go up and down the river must pass, and I have no doubt that in a few years steamboats will be running between it and the Cascades. In addition to the facilities which I have already mentioned, it has a mild and dry climate, about the same as that of Nashville, Tennessee. It is slightly colder than Wallawalla, in consequence of its nearer vicinity to one of the stupendous Titans of the Cascade or President's range, called Mount Washington, about fifty or sixty miles to the south-west. I was at the Dalles on the 23d of November last, and there had up to that time been no visitation of cold weather, nor no fall of rain heavy enough to wet the ground two inches deep. To this place, moreover, from its peculiar situation, and the characteristics of large portions of the adjacent country, both north and south, will all the cattle raised in the second region have to be driven to be slaughtered, and here the inhabitants from above will purchase their general supplies.

The beauty of this situation and the advantages it possessed over any to which I had yet arrived, determined me to leave my folks and effects there for a time, and make a voyage to Vancouver myself, to carry out the provisions of the ar-

rangement I had made with Mr. McKinley, at Wallawalla, in relation to our cattle. I accordingly set out on the 5th of November, and continued my route down the river.

The Columbia, between the Dalles and Cascades, is a calm and clear stream, without a rapid in it, and as safe in its navigation as the Ohio. The current is slow, but there is at all times an ample supply of water. The distance between the two points is thirty-six miles. Immediately after leaving the missionary landing, the river which was about a mile wide, passed for two miles through high walls of perpendicular basaltic rock standing in square columns, sometimes of a foot, and sometimes of two feet in thickness. These rocks, which are the same in character as all that I had seen on the borders of this stream, were perpendicular in their position, except at two points where we found them gently inclining inward towards the river. After we had proceeded some three or four miles from our starting point, the hills gradually ran towards the river's sides. Those on the southern bank are covered with pine and white oak, and those on the northern side bear scarcely anything but scrubby white oak. As we neared the Cascades, the mountains increased greatly in height, and the pines upon their sides grew larger in their size than those on the introductory hills, and became more thickly studded, until the mountains were covered with them. We frequently passed tall walls of rock many hundred feet in height, that raised their castellated sides on the very brink of the river. In fact, the river is so shut in with these natural bastions, both above and below the Cascades, for twenty miles on either side, that within this whole space, there is no bottom lands at all with the exception of a single spot of fertility three miles below, and occasional scollops, stolen from the mountains, bearing in their semicircles nothing but the hut of some Indian fisherman. On our way down, we passed several rafts carrying the adventurous members of our expedition, their families and their baggage, and arrived there ourselves on the seventh.

The Cascades are made by the Columbia forcing its way through the Cascade or President's range of mountains over an immense field of rocks, which at this point strew its bottom and peep above its surface. This point of the river bears no resemblance to the Dalles at all. Instead of being confined between perpendicular walls of basaltic rock, it is lined on

either side by the slopes of towering mountains studded with evergreen pine, and birch and oak. Immediately at the Cascades, the mountains run close in to the shore, but, as if satisfied with the experiment at this point, they start away from both sides to the east, and leave several spaces of high, yet tolerably level land. As we approached the Cascades, the roar of the waters fretting in their uneasy course, gave token of its vicinity, and the increasing current of the river lent to our little vessel an additional speed. The growing foam, and gathering obstructions in the shape of rocks in the bed of the stream, at length warned us to the shore, and we were obliged to give our boat again to the Indians on the bank, and make a portage to escape the danger. The water is here very deep, and the bed of the river is filled with huge detached rocks, with intervening patches of white sand. From the compression of its volume in a trough of three or four hundred yards, and its fall of one hundred and fifty feet in the distance of a mile and a half, the current here sets downward with immense force, which renders the passage dangerous in the extreme.

These rocks are generally conical in form, and stand with their small ends up, like gigantic hen's eggs, deposited in the bed of the stream. They are all worn smooth by the continual friction of the current, and many of them are from ten to fifteen feet high above the water level. It is a most beautiful sight, as the water rushes down with resistless impetuosity, raging and foaming at the resistance made by these stubborn opponents in the very centre of its volume, to stand and gaze upon, from the commanding position on the northern bank. In all the whirl and turmoil of this watery Babel, I noticed a seal or two occasionally popping up their heads on the lee side of the rocks, as if to make an occasional inquiry as to the course of matters out of doors. The Indians have a remarkable tradition in relation to these Cascades. They say that about seventy or eighty years ago, they did not exist at all, but that the river ran smoothly on under the side of a projecting mountain, from which an avalanche slid into its bed, and drove it into its present fretful confine. This seems almost incredible, but appearances go strangely to confirm it. The river above the Cascades has all the appearance of being dammed up from below, and for many miles above, you will see stumps of trees in thick squads extending, at some points,

more than a hundred yards from the shore along the bottom. These have all the appearance of timber that has been killed by the overflowing of water, as you will sometimes see it in a mill dam. The tops of some of them approach to within a foot or two of the surface, while in many places, others rise above it for ten or fifteen. What is strongly confirmative of their report, is the fact that you can find no such appearances at any other point on the river. It is certainly beyond dispute, that these trees could ever have grown there, and in absence of any other mode of accounting for the phenomenon, we must come to the conclusion that they have been drowned by some great overflow, caused by a convulsion, or a lapse of nature. On the south bank, commencing at the foot of the Cascades, and extending half a mile up the river, and spreading between it and the mountains, is a space of level land, about three hundred yards wide, which is covered with pine, and is elevated, at low water mark, some fifty or sixty feet. Among these pines, scattered over the surface of the ground, you will see numbers of these loose rocks, a portion of which have tumbled into the flood. It is also worthy of remark, that the pines growing here are all young trees, none being more than a foot in diameter.

The portage here is about half a mile, and is made on the north bank going up, and on the south bank coming down. The boats, however, are not taken out of the water and carried around as they are at the Falls, but are drawn along by ropes extending to the bank, and in some places are lifted over the rocks. The Cascades form another great salmon fishery. The Indians have speculated and practically experimented upon the doctrines of internal improvement in application to this object, by making artificial channels by an ingenious arrangement of the loose rock, so as to form a number of natural canals, into which the great body of the fish find their way in passing up the river, when they are taken with great ease.

The Cascades are a very important point in the Oregon territory in a business point of view. All the commerce and travel up the river, are compelled to pass them, and to make this portage. There is fine grazing, fine timber, some good soil, and an incalculable amount of water power in the immediate vicinity. The piece of level land I have already alluded to as lying on the south bank, would form a fine situa-

tion for a town or a farmer's residence. The rapids below the Cascades extend down about three miles or more, and offer almost insurmountable impediments to navigation at low water, especially to boats ascending the stream. It requires, perhaps, a full day's time to pass from the foot of the rapids to the Cascades with a loaded boat. Portions of the loading have to be taken out and carried a few yards, at some two or three different points. In descending the river, the Hudson's Bay Company always pass through them without unloading, and their mode of passage is very descriptively called "jumping the rapids." From the Cascades to Cape Horn, (a perpendicular wall of rock about five hundred feet high, and running along the bank of the river for the space of half a mile on the north side,) is twenty miles; and down to this point the mountains continue to be tall, and to run close to the margin of the stream. On the sides of these, both above and below, there are many beautiful waterfalls. There is one in particular, just above Cape Horn, formed by a considerable mountain stream, whose whole volume falls in one perpendicular pitch of five hundred feet amid the caverns of the rocks.

At Cape Horn, which is midway between the Cascades and Vancouver, (a distance of forty miles,) you can perceive the mountains dwindle rapidly into hills, and what remains of them when you arrive within ten miles of the fort, turn off abruptly from the river on both sides, almost at right angles, and leave, spreading from its banks towards the sea, level, yet high districts of fertile country, many miles wide, covered with an immense body of pine, fir, and white cedar timber. On the north bank, this strip of country runs some distance below Vancouver, and on the south it stretches to the Willamette. The Willamette is a fine river entering the Columbia five miles below Fort Vancouver, and running nearly in a south-easterly direction from the parent stream. This course, aided by a slight inclination of the great river, immediately after receiving it, forms a triangle, the point of which formed at the junction, and the base of which extends about five or six miles up the banks of both rivers until it reaches an equilateral breadth. This is low bottom prairie covered with scattering ash and cotton wood. It is overflown every summer, and forms an exception to the high but level land, which I mentioned as stretching along the shore for twenty

or thirty miles above. On the north side of the Columbia, in this lower region, the soil is rich, but gravelly; on the south side it is richer still, and is spread upon a substratum of yellow clay.

On the tenth of November, I arrived at Vancouver and could scarcely believe my eyes, when on approaching it, I beheld moored securely in the river, two square rigged vessels and a steam boat. My very heart jumped as I set eyes on these familiar objects, and for the first time in four months, I felt as if I had found a substantial evidence of civilization. The impression of the refinement of the mission, and the peculiarly domestic comforts which the ladies attached to the establisments spread around them; were as nothing compared with the yards and masts of these coursers of the ocean.

The river at Fort Vancouver is from 1600 to 1700 yards wide. The Fort, which is the principal establishment of the Hudsons's Bay Company in Oregon, is on the north bank of the Columbia, 90 miles, distance in a direct line from the sea. It stands a considerable distance back from the shore, and is surrounded by a large number of wooden buildings, and also a school house, used for the various purposes of residences and workshops for those attached to the establishment This colony is enclosed by a barrier of pickits twenty feet in height. On the bank of the river, six hundred yards down, is a village somewhat larger in extent, (containing an hospital,) which is allotted to the inferior servants of the station. Two miles further down the river, are the dairy and piggery, containing numerous herds of cattle, hogs, sheep, &c. and about three miles above the forts, are grist and saw mills, and sheds for curing salmon. Immediately behind it, is a garden of five acres, and an orchard filled with peach, apple, fig, orange, lemon, and other fruit trees, and containing also grapes, strawberries, and ornamental plants, and flowers. Behind this, the cultivated farm, with its numerous barns and other necessary buildings, spreads off towards the south. The land appropriated here for the purposes of farming, is from 3000 to 4000 acres, and is fenced into beautiful fields, a great portion of which has already been appropriated to cultivation, and is found to produce the grains and vegatables of the States, in remarkable profusion. To cultivate these immense farms, and attend to the duties arising from the care of flocks, the drudgery of the workshops, the heavy labor attendent

upon hewing timber for the saw mills, the British residents do not hesitate to press into their service the neigbouring Iroquois, aud even to avail themselves of human transplants from the Sandwich Islands; many of the natives of which are already here working in gangs for the benefit, and at the direction of this shrewd and able company.

On my arrival I was received with great kindness by Doctor Mc Laughlin and Mr. James Douglass, the second in command. They both tendered me the hospitalities of the fort, which offer, it is scarcely necessary to say. I accepted willingly and with pleasure. Dr Mc Laughlin is the Governer or Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, a situation most difficult and arduous in its duties, and requiring most consummate ability in the person aspiring to fill it. The Hudson's Bay Company have been most fortunate in their selection of Dr. Mc. Laughlin for this important trust. Possessed of a commanding person, a refined, benevolent and amiable manner; owning extensive acquirements drawn from study, travel and intercourse with mankind; a profound knowledge of human nature, and withal a firmness that ensures obedience and respect, he is peculiarly qualified to protect the important interests of this powerful compàny, and to control its wayward servants, while thus far removed from the reach of other civil authority. Dr. Mc Laughlin is upwards of six feet high, and over sixty years of age. In person he is robust, erect, and a little inclined to corpulency, one of the natural results of contentment and repose. The clear flush of rosy health glows upon his cheeks, his eye still sparkles with youthful vivacity while he is in conversation with you, and his fine head of snow white hair, adds not a little to the impressiveness of his appearance. His hospitality is unbounded, and, I will sum up all his qualities, by saying that he is beloved by all who know him.

Mr. Douglass is also upwards of six feet, and about forty five years of age, he is likewise inclined to be corpulent, and his hair is also gently receiving its siftings from the salt of Time. He is like his superior, a man of accomplished manners and great business habits. He came to America in his boyhood, entered the service of the H. B. Company, immediately on his arrival, and has remained in it ever since.

The *modus operandi* of this wonderful corporation is remarkable for the perfect accuracy of its system. A code of

established rules, embracing within its scope, the chief Factor and the meanest servant, is the inflexible rule which governs all. Every man has his alloted department to fill, and his regular tasks to do, and he is held responsible for the faithful performance of that and nothing more. A system of far sighted policy is brought to bear upon the management of every department, whether it be the trapping of a territory, the transplanting of natives, the reinforcement and supply of any of their numerous forts, the occupation of a point, or the assumption of a privilege. A regular price is set upon every thing, and it is labor thrown away to attempt to underbid it. Their goods are all of a most superior kind, and it is no less a rule to sell them at reasonable rates, than it is to have them good. Vancouver is the grand depot of all the other forts of Oregon, and it is likewise the grand magazine of their supplies. The vessels that bring the comforts of other climes in at the mouth of the Columbia, here unload their freight, and the fertile valley of the river yields up its abundant stores at the slightest summons of their wants.

Their mode of transportation, and the carriage of their goods from place to place, is peculiar, and worthy of mention. They pack all their good in uniform lots, of one hundred pounds each, and their boats being all of one size and form, are consequently all loaded alike. When they make portages, in ascending or descending the stream, an established rule, which on no account must be departed from, directs the number of packages to be taken out to lighten the craft, and this direction varies according to the navigation of the place. This regulation ensures the safety of every expedition, and prevents many losses and dangers that would otherwise arise out of the indiscretion and daring of the boatmen. A few years ago, a party of eight of the company's servants were descending the river in a boat, and when they came in contact with the Cascades, and were about landing to make the portage, according to custom, one of the party proposed, as they were anxious to arrive at home, that they should run through them. The proposal, though startling at first, was gradually assented to by all of the party but one. This was an old pilot, who had been in the company's service for a number of years, and who was well acquainted with all the dangers of the passage. He held out stubbornly against their united wishes, until accused of cowardice, when he re-

linquished his opposition, and partly to vindicate himself from the charge, and partly out of spite to their reckless folly, determined to give them a chance of proving his correctness by actual experiment. The boat passed safely down for some two or three hundred yards, when multiplying dangers whirled and foamed on every side, and the increasing ones that roared and broke ahead, struck them suddenly with a panic, and for a moment they ceased to pull their oars. The pause was fatal. The edge of a whirlpool caught the tail of the boat, swung her broadside to the stream with sudden velocity, and rushing it in this hepless condition among the most fearful rapids, it was suddenly overwhelmed by the lashing waves, and all on board perished, save the old man who had opposed the experiment, and one other hand. The pilot seized on an oar, and was picked up with it firmly enclosed in his senseless grasp, at a spot four miles below the scene of the disaster. The other man, by an equally strange caprice of the current, was cast insensible upon the bank immediately below the Cascades.

Whatever may be the cause of complaint existing against the Hudson's Bay Company, in their treatment of former emigrants from the United States, the kindness of Dr. McLaughlin to this emigration has been very great. He furnished them with goods and provisions on credit, and such as were sick were sent to the Hospital free of expense, where they had the strict and careful attendance of Dr. Barclay, a skilful physician, and an excellent and humane man. The Chief Factor likewise lent the emigrants the Company's boats, to bring down such of the families and baggage as had been left at the Cascades by the advanced guard of the expedition, which had preceeded me; and he also furnished them with the same facilities for crossing the river with their cattle, at Vancouver. Had it not been for the kindness of this excellent man, many of us would have suffered greatly, and I have no doubt, that much injustice has been done him, by confounding his personal conduct with that of many of his countrymen. The policy of the Company towards the Indians, has, it is true, been very seriously comdemned, it is questionable, whether Dr. Mc Laughlin is justly chargeable with all the evils that have arisen out of it. It is certainly true, that he has been in some measure the victim of misrepresentation; for I know of my own knowledge, that the Indians of Southern Oregon, and those

tribes bordering on the Californian line, instead of being inoffensive and well-disposed, as described by Mr. Spaulding, are on the contrary hostile, thievish, and treacherous. This is something towards a general refutation. It is certain that the Doctor himself has uniformly aided settlers, by supplying them with farming implements, and with seed grain, as a loan, to be returned out of the succeeding crop. He has even gone so far as to lend them hogs, to be returned two or three years afterward, by their issue of the same age; to furnish oxen to break their ground, and cows to supply milk to their families. This certainly appears to me to be a very poor way to retard the settlement of the region, and to discourage the adventurers who arrive in it.

A great deal has been said against him because he has refused to sell the cattle belonging to the company, but those who have made the complaints, have certainly reflected very little upon the subject, and are incapable of measuring the enlarged scope of the Doctor's policy. The supply of the cattle and sheep of the settlements was very limited, and the great object has been to increase it. This could only be carried out by secure measures for their protection; and it would have been absurd, indeed, while the authorities of the Fort were denying themselves the luxury of beef or mutton, to carry out this important object, if they should have sold cattle to those whose caprice might destroy them at pleasure. Besides, all the cattle, with the exception of a very few, were inferior Spanish animals, and it was a matter of necessity to improve the stock, by crossing them with those of the English breed. The same case existed with regard to the sheep, which were from California, but which, by repeated crossings, have at length not only been greatly increased, but have been improved nearly to the condition of full bloods.

The science of stock raising, the rough mountain men who were the first settlers from the States, did not understand. They could only understand that brutes were made to kill, and hence the dissatisfaction, and consequent complaint. Having improved his stock, and accomplished a proper degree of increase, the Doctor was ready enough to sell on reasonable terms, though, to say the truth, he did not find a very ready market. The business of sheep raising on a small scale is scarcely worth attention. The wolves are sure to kill the animals, unless they are continually attended by a shepherd,

and carefully folded at night; and besides, woollen goods can be had here so cheap, that their fleece hardly pays for the care required to raise it, and the raising of horned cattle, and wheat, is much more profitable. So far as its own individual interests are concerned, (without regard to the claim to sovereignty from exclusive occupation,) it is not the interest of the Hudson's Bay Company any longer to retard the settlement of this country. The beaver have nearly been exhausted from the region; the Indians are year by year rapidly passing away, and even those that remain, can bring nothing to the Company in the way of trade. By settlement from the States, the Company, who monopolize the commerce and manufactures of the place, obtain white men for customers, the trade of one of whom is worth that of forty Indians, who have nothing to sell.

The prices of groceries and clothing at Vancouver, are, upon a general average, the same as in the States, some that cost more, being balanced by those that come at less. Loaf sugar of the first quality, is worth 20 cents per lb.; coffee, 25 cents; brown sugar, 12½ cents. Tea is better and cheaper than in the States, the road to China being so much shorter than from the Atlantic coast, and lying as it were right opposite the door of the Columbia river. Woollen goods and ready made clothing being introduced here without duty as it is considered an English port, are greatly cheaper than with us. A very good strong quality of blue broadcloth six quarters wide, can be had for one dollar and twenty-five cents per yard. A very neat cloth roundabout, comes at 4,37½; pantaloons at five dollars; heavy, well-made cotton shirts are worth 83 cents; Mackinaw blankets of superior quality, 3,50 each. All articles of cutlery are also cheap from the same reason as the above. Calicoes and brown cottons are about the same as in the States. Iron is about 10 cents a pound; gunpowder 25 cents; lead 12½ cents, and shot the same. Boots and shoes are yet very high, and crockery of all descriptions is also dear. Chains, tools, and farming implements, are very reasonable; the best Cary ploughs can be had to order from an excellent blacksmith at the place, at 31¼ cents per pound. Wheat is worth one dollar per bushel; potatoes 40 cents; fresh pork 10 cents, pickled 12½ fresh beef 6 cents per pound. American cows bring from 50 to 75 dollars, and Spanish from 30 to 40 dollars; oxen om 75

to 125 dollars per yoke; American horses from 50 to 75 dollars each. There is an abundance of poultry in the country, and there are also a plentiful supply of the two classes of domestic animals known by the familiar appellations of cats and dogs, but still I would advise emigrants to bring dogs with them that are of a good breed, as in a country where so much game abounds, and where there are herds to watch, they are calculated to be very useful.

All the goods sold at Vancouver are of the most superior quality, and the purchaser in this region of general honesty and enterprise, receives them at twelve months credit; so thus the greatest obstacle to the poor emigrant after his arrival here, vanishes at once. This is a country of peace and good will; every new comer is received as a brother; the poor man's wealth lies in his arms, and the industry and enterprise which brought him here to claim by his labor heaven's first gifts in the riches of the soil, is accepted as the substantial and sufficient guarantee of his good faith.

The utmost liberality characterizes all the dealings with the stranger and even with the resident. If your fortunes have been adverse, and you are not able to pay for last year's dealing, you are required to give your note, drawing interest at five per cent. Instances have come to my knowledge since my arrival, in which Dr. McLaughlin has extended the credit of some of his customers for two or three years together. He has supplied most of the members of last year's emigration with such articles as they needed, taking in payment only the pledge of their honest faces and hard hands.

CHAPTER IX.

The Chief Factor's probity—Departure from Vancouver—Wappato Island—Game—The Willamette—Linntan—Fallatry Plains—The Klackamus—The Falls—Fallatry River—Thomas McKay—Yam Hill River—Multonomah—The half breeds.

I HAVE stated before that the special object of my journey to Vancouver was to consummate the arrangement I had made

with Mr. McKinley, of Fort Wallawalla, in regard to the exchange of our cattle. On the morning after my arrival, I therefore opened my business to the Doctor, and presented him with the aforesaid gentleman's order. The old gentleman at once gave evident signs of displeasure. He saw in a moment that Mr. McKinley had taken advantage of our ignorance to drive a sharp bargain, and gave an immediate and decided dissent to the whole proceeding.

"Are you aware," said he to me, "that our Spanish cattle are much inferior to yours?"

I told him I thought they were from the specimens I had seen at his place.

"And you have learned," continued he, "that cattle may be safely driven from Wallawalla to this post?"

I admitted that the success of the emigrants in bringing through their stock, had convinced me of the fact.

"Mr. McKinley has done very wrong," said he, shaking his head, "very wrong indeed! Your cattle are superior to those that I should be obliged to give you, and you would be much the losers by the arrangement. I will not consent to profit by your reliance on our good faith. I will write to Mr. McKinley to take good care of your animals, and to deliver them to you whenever you have settled upon your final residence. If you should decide upon settling near us, we shall have the advantage of improving the breeds by them. But come, Mr. ———, leave this matter to me; let us drop business for the present, and take a turn down towards the river; I wish to give some directions to an expedition to Fort George, and then I wish to show you a splendid stallion which I bought from an Indian this morning."

It may be supposed by some, that Dr. McLaughlin, under the idea that I was one of the leaders of our formidable expediton, was practising upon me a piece of most adroit finesse, to enlist my favor at the outset, but, as I have had much the best opportunity to judge, I shall not hesitate to decide in favor of his entire sincerity.

That I may not overlook it, I will take this opportunity to state that when I was at Vancouver, the cattle of our emigration which had been driven clear through to the Wallamette, were improving rapidly, and many of the oxen were already so far recruited as to be able to be worked daily in the plough.

Having concluded my business at Vancouver, and after having spent three very pleasant days in the hospitable society of the place, I determined to proceed on to the Willamette to make a selection of my final location.

Five miles sail down the Columbia brings you to the eastern mouth of the Willamette. The first object that strikes you immediately upon your entrance is Saury's Island, or as it is sometimes called, Willamette or Wappato Island. This is a long tract of low land about twenty miles in length, and about five in width. It lies directly in the mouth of the river, and thus splitting the stream, causes it to disembogue by two outlets into the Columbia at a distance of fifteen miles from each other. Its surface is mostly a low bottom prairie which overflows every summer, and it is intersected in every direction with small shallow lakes in which grows a species of Indian potatoe, called "Wappato," similar in flavor to the Irish potatoe, and being a most excellent and nutritious description of food. There are, however, several spots of fir timber on it, on high ground above high water, and also a large amount of cotton wood, white oak, and ash timber in several portions of it. There are immense numbers of wild hogs upon the island, the issue of some placed there several years ago by the Hudson's Bay Company, which find a plentiful subsistence in the Wappato root, and on the mast of the oak. On the lakes, marshes, and rivers of the place, may be found innnumerable swarms of wild fowl, consisting of ducks, geese, and swans. These the Indians kill in great numbers and sell to the whites at extremely low rates, the former being charged at four, the second six, and the latter ten loads of powder and shot each. A family could easily be supported here on wild fowl alone. After you pass up the river for two miles, you come to the Wallamette slough where the stream divides itself; the smaller portion turning to the left and running down in that direction along the island till it reaches the Columbia 15 miles south of the northern mouth. From the slough starts a ridge of lofty mountains about fifteen hundred feet in height, running parallel with the bank of the river up along its course. These are covered with immense forests of fir, white cedar, hemlock, cherry, maple, and some other kinds of trees, but fir and cedar constitute nine-tenths of the whole body of the timber. The space between this ridge and the river is low bottom land, which overflows in some years, except at a point

five miles from the river's mouth that has since been laid out by General M'Carver and myself under the name of Linntan. This stands upon a high piece of level land about five feet above the level of the stream, and from its being the nearest eligible site for a settlement on the Willamette, it appeared to us to offer superior advantages for a town. As I may be supposed, from the fact I have above stated, to be interested in this point, I will pass it without further remark. When you reach Linntan you have as yet seen no fine farming or grazing country, except that which is covered with immense bodies of timber requiring too vast a labor to remove. From Linntan, there is a good road passing over the ridge of mountains I have mentioned, and leading out ten miles to the famous Fallatry Plains. As you approach within five miles of this region of exhuberant fertility, the timber, which is mixed fir and cedar, becomes more scattering, and the country gradually more open. These plains, as they are called, consist of a succession of small prairies about three miles long and two broad, separated from each other by small groves of timber, and stretching west from Linntan, until they connect with the Yam Hill country, which I shall hereafter describe. These beautiful plains are almost encircled by a ridge of verdant mountains, in the form of a horse shoe; its convex sweeping towards the Willamette, and the open end running into the Yam Hill valley. This ridge of mountains is in many places heavily timbered, and in others the timber is very scattering, the surface of the mountain being covered instead, with fine grass, constituting an inexhaustable range. How far apart this horse shoe is at the base, I cannot with exactness tell, but I suppose it, from a cursory observation, to be from twenty to thirty miles, and enclosing in its boundaries land enough for two fine countries. These plains are gently undulating smooth prairies, with a black fertile soil upon a clay foundation. The fir timber comes immediately up to the prairie, so that in five steps you can be out of the open field, in whose velvet smoothness not even a twig can be seen, into the dark green recesses of an everlasting forest of the tallest, straightest timber, studded in the thickest and most formidable array. I should think there was rail timber enough upon ten of these acres to fence five hundred.

There are no deep branches running through these plains, but the water runs off in little vallies about ten yards wide,

and where these vallies reach the forest, they are covered with black ash and white oak timber. There is also at various places around these prairies fine bodies of white oak timber. Take them altogether, I have never in all my life seen prairies more beautiful than these are, or that were situated more advantageously for cultivation. The first settlements in this voluptuous region were made about three years ago, and they now extend to about fifteen miles into their bosom, and already embrace many fine farms, some containing as much as a hundred and fifty acres in fine cultivation. Were I possessed of a poet's imagination I might describe in spontaneous song the superlative loveliness of this delightful scene as viewed from the slope of one of the encircling hills, but not being gifted with the poet's frenzy, I must leave the features of this delightful region to the imagination of the reader.

The Willamette river is navigable for ships for five miles above Linntan, but after passing up that distance, you come to a bar which forbids the further passage of vessels of any draught. Small vessels and steamboats, however, can ascend to within a short distance of the Falls. Three miles below the Falls, you come to the mouth of a stream called the Klackamus, which enters the river from the east. It rises in the President's range, and in its course of thirty miles, collects a considerable body of water, which it contributes to the main stream. Its current is rapid and broken, and not navigable to any available degree, and its tide sets with so strong a force into the Willamette, as to offer a serious impediment to boats stretching across its mouth.

As we neared the Falls, the water was shallow and fretted by the irregular surface of the bottom, and we were obliged on coming up to it, to make a portage beyond. At the place of our debarkation, on the eastern bank, rose a perpendicular wall of rock, stretching some discance down the river. Through this, however, you find an easy avenue, but recently cut, to the high land above, which as soon as you ascend you find yourself amid the forests and the prairies of the upper plains.

After rising above the Falls, we came in view of Oregon City, the town of secondary importance in the territory. Here is situated at the present time, from eighty to an hundred families, with stores, mills, workshops, factories, and all the concomitants of thriving civilization. They have like-

wise an independent government of their own, and as far as things have progressed, every thing has gone well. Great improvements are meditated at this place, and Dr. McLaughlin, who is the owner of the first establishment you meet in rising from the lower bed of the river, is cutting a canal around the Falls for the purpose of the more easy transportation of the harvests and manufactures of the upper settlements of the Columbia.

The Falls presented a beautiful sight as they rushed in alternate sheet and foam, over an abrupt wall of dark rock stretching obliquely across the stream, and the hoarse uproar of the waters as they tumbled into the bed of the river below, lent an additional solemnity to the imposing grandeur of the scenery around.

The river's edge, for several miles above them, is bordered by a row of mountains, shutting out the surrounding prospect by their continually intervening bulks, from us who sailed upon the silvery bottom of the immense green trough between. There was nothing forbidding in their aspects however, for their sides were covered with umbrageous forests of thickly studded timber of the most magnificent description. About fifteen miles above the Falls, these hills, by a gradual modification of their altitude, roll into verdant undulations, spreading at last into level grassy plains, and alternating with flourishing clumps of timber land. At this point, we came upon McKay's settlement, which is situated on the eastern bank, and presents all the evidences of a flourishing little town. Thomas McKay, its founder, is a native of this region in the fullest sense of the word, being the joint descendant of one of the early fur traders belonging to the Pacific Company, and a Chippeway squaw. The son, following the fortunes of his father, grew up in the service of the North West Association, and transferred himself, at the time of its dissolution, into that of the Hudson's Bay. Having at length acquired a competence, he retired from their arduous service, and established himself in his present location. He may now be said to be the most wealthy man in the valley of the Willamette, having an extensive and well stocked farm, and being the owner of a grist mill of superior construction, which must have cost him several thousand dollars to erect. He is a fine specimen of the two races, and combines the energy and perseverance of the one, with the strong passions and determined

will of the other. His life has been one scene of wild adventure, and in the numerous conflicts of the early trappers with the savage tribes, he was always foremost in the fight, and the most remarkable in his display of daring bravery and enduring courage. Many a red man has fallen in conflict beneath his rifle, and the warlike bands that have gradually moved away, or been subdued into obedience, well recollect the terrible prowess of their dreaded cousin.

Between this town and the mission establishment above, (a distance of forty miles,) farms are sprinkled all along, and 12 miles above McKay's, we meet another flourishing village, called Jarvis's settlement, containing between thirty and forty families, which are about divided as to national distinction. It was originally a mere collection of retired Hudson's Bay servants, but the gradual accession of American settlers, has thus changed its complexion.

In my progress up the river I omitted to mention the fact that at a short distance above the falls, we come to the mouth of another small tributary on the west, called the Fallatry river. It takes its rise in the northern portion of the range of mountains which I have described as encircling the Fallatry plains, and in its course through them, pursues a south-easterly direction until it empties into the Willamette.

The next stream entering the Willamette on its western bank, is the Yam Hill river. This tributary rises in a west, or south-west direction from the point of its junction with the Willamette, in the range of low mountains that run along the edge of the coast. It starts from its source in a north-west direction, and receives a number of smaller tributaries in the shape of creeks. The valley of this stream is a very fine country, consisting of prairie, spotted with groves, and oak timber growing upon the same rich vegetable soil that is spread upon its plains. It extends to the bases of the mountains in which the Yam Hill takes its rise, and from its westernmost limit the roar of the adjacent ocean can be heard. The route to California passes some distance along the line of this valley, and a most excellent road can be had leading from it, through the Fallatry plains, to Linntan.

The country all along the eastern bank of the Willamette, above McKay's settlement, is as good as the Yam Hill country, or the Fallatry Plains, and is much the same, both in regard to its natural productions, and its soil. There are fine

facilities for intercommunication with its different points; the line of travel is level and easy, and it has in consequence, secured throughout its course, a row of settlements which in a few years will extend into a continuous chain.

After you leave Jarvis's settlement, you proceed up the river for about thirty miles, when you come to the principal town of Oregon. This is situated on the eastern bank of the Willamette, and is ninety-four miles from the Columbia river. It was first formed in 1834, by a party of American missionaries, under the direction of Messrs. Lee, Shepherd, and others, and its vicinity had, even previous to that period, been selected by several retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. It has, ever since the above period, been the seat of the Methodist Episcopal mission, and has now become the head quarters of the operations of the district. Passing the period of my first visit to it, I will take this opportunity to state that there are at the present moment, (March, 1844,) at this place, over two hundred families, and that there are in the whole valley of the Willamette, more than a thousand citizens of the United States. A church, a hospital, an academy, mills, workshops, comfortable dwellings, a herd of five thousand head of cattle, and all the accompaniments of civilization and refinement are to be found here, and any man who can be content to live beyond the limits of a densely populated city, can find at this place all the comforts and enjoyments which a rational being, uncorrupted by false appetites, can crave.

There are a large number of Indians about this settlement and valley, who were under the care of the missionaries, and who perform much of the servile labor of the mission establishment. Indeed they are employed the same way by these religious establishments, throughout the territory, as they are by the Hudson's Bay Company; so if there is anything which smacks of slavery in the one case, it necessarily follows in the other.

There is another, and pretty numerous branch of population growing up here, which cannot be passed without notice. This is the class of half breeds, the issue of the Indian women, who are either married to, or fall otherwise in the hands of the careless trapper, or the indifferent woodsman. As there is a great scarcity of white women in this territory, this state of things naturally results, and the consequence will be, that

the half breeds, during the next five or six years, will form by far the most numerous native born of the population. Some of these are fine specimens of the two races, and if the cross turns out many such men as McKay, there will be no reason to regret this perversion of fancy, or rather this push of necessity on the part of their male progenitors.

At a short distance above Multonmah, a stream called the Santa Ann I believe, enters the Willamette from the east, along the banks of which there is a vast body of fine country. It takes its rise in the portion of the President's range in the vicinity of Mount Jefferson.

The portion of the Willamette valley lying between the Cascade ridge and the range of low mountains next the ocean, is from fifty to one hundred miles wide, and about two hundred and fifty, to three hundred feet long. It consists of rich prairie land and timber, and let who will say to the contrary, is one the finest pieces of farming land to be found in any country. There is very little difference in the several portions of this valley, with the exception of the circumstance that the timber is larger and a little more abundant in some places than in others, and now and then the prairies vary to some extent in size. This section constitutes the great body of the prime farming and grazing section of the lower region of Oregon, though there are other beautiful portions in the valleys of the Tootootutna, the Umqua, and the Klamet, farther south.

CHAPTER X.

Passage down the Columbia—Astoria—The mouth of the Columbia—How to raise wheat—Facilities for farming purposes—General view of the valley of the Willamette.

To reach the Willamette, I had proceeded down the Columbia to the eastern mouth of the former river at Wappato Island; and for the purpose of completing the route to Astoria, I will now take the river up at that point again and trace it to the ocean. Passing along Wappato for fifteen miles, you come to the western mouth of the Willamette. The Island

at this point is high and has a bold rocky shore, right up to which, the water is of sufficient depth to allow a large class vessel to lie up and unload, an important advantage in case the point should ever be selected for commercial purposes. On the southern bank of the river immediately below the lower mouth of the Willamette, is a situation which would affords a fine site for a settlement or a town. It is true it is covered with fiine heavy timber, but it rises gently from the river, and through the forests in the rear, a natural gap may be seen, which offers facilities for an avenue directly to the riches of the Fallatry plains behind. The Hudson's Bay Company perceiving the advantage of the situation, have already built a house there and have established one of their servants in it. They have many houses thus spotted about on eligible sites, the whole object of which in many cases must merely be the eventual assumption of a prior right, by pre-occupation, in case others should wish to settle in the same place.

As you pass down the Columbia, you find no plains along the river, but it is still bordered with its row of mountains, running along the banks on either side, and bearing upon their sides the everlasting groves of timber. A few miles below Wappato Island, on the other side of the river, you strike the mouth of the Cowelitz river, in the valley of which I am told some very good land is to be found, though most of the soil on the north bank of the Columbia is poor, and is unfit for the production of wheat or the esculent grains, except sparely and in spots. This feature increases as you proceed northward, and the land in the vicinity of Nasqually, on Puget's Sound, is incapable, as I am told, of ordinary production.

Below the Cowelitz river, the Columbia begins to widen, and at the distance of ten miles from the sea, it spreads to a width of several miles.

Astoria, or Fort George as it is now called by the company who have it in possession, is situated on the south bank of the river, about ten miles from the ocean. It stands on a hill side, and consists only of a few acres which have been redeemed by industrious clearing from the immense forests running behind it. Some of these trees are of the most enormous size, and the soil can only be got at with immense labor in the way of clearing. Until our arrival, it consisted only of

three or four log houses in a rather dilapidated condition, but now it is revived by its old name of Astoria, by Captain Applegate and others, who have laid off a town there, and divided it into lots. It will hardly answer the expectations of those who go to it. The ground is rendered too wet for cultivation, by numerous springs that run through it in every direction, and the ocean air is sure to blast the wheat before it can ripen. Garden vegetables, however, grow there finely. Beyond Astoria, and nearer to the ocean, you find a small prairie about two miles long by three wide. It has been formed, it is said, by the ocean, and its soil is represented to be a rich black sandy deposit, varying from eight to fifteen inches deep, when it comes to a foundation of pure sand.

The mouth of the Columbia is the only harbor for ships upon the whole Pacific coast of Oregon. Its channel is very difficult, being tortuous in its course, and perplexed by sand bars, and on account of the violence of its breakers, caused by the sudden confluence of the river's descending volume and the ocean tides, it is extremely dangerous for more than two-thirds of the year to attempt to enter it. Once in, however, and there is good anchorage and safe navigation. The whole coast, in fact, is perilous to approach, and a north-east wind by giving navigators a lee shore of black overhanging rocks, heightens their danger not a little. The only place of refuge for vessels south of the Columbia on the Oregon coast, is the mouth of the Umpqua, a river intering the Pacific in 42 degs. 51, where vessels drawing eight feet of water may securely enter. A similar harbor may be found between forty and fifty miles to the north, called Gray's Harbor, which also affords like security for vessels of the same draught.

Having now completed the account of the line of route from the state of Missouri to the north of the Columbia, I will now return to the valley of the Willamette as the point of the greatest interest, and after a few more remarks concerning it, will turn my attention to some of the general features of the territory.

As I said before, ships ascend the Columbia to the lower mouth of the Willamette at Wappato island, (and as high as the Cascades, in a direct onward course if they please,) and turning into the river, sail five miles up it to Linntan, and beyond that, five miles more. There, a bar forbids the further progress of any but small vessels which may proceed onward

to within seven or eight miles of the falls, and boats may go nearly up to it. Above the falls, the river is navigable for steam boats for over fifty miles.

The Yam Hill River, which I have spoken of before as entering the western bank of the Willamette, is navigable for canoes and keel boats up to its forks, about fifteen or twenty miles from its mouth. Above this still, and at the head of navigation on the Willamette, is another town laid out, called Champoe, but I do not know that any lot have as yet been sold at that place.

I look upon the Willamette valley as one of the finest agricultural countries in America. The soft, rich soil of the prairies is easily broken up from its original imbeddedness with a single yoke of oxen, or a team of horses, and the moderation of the climate allows you to sow spring wheat as early as the middle of February, and from that until the 15th of May, as the season happens to run. You commence ploughing in October, and plough and sow wheat from that time to the fifteenth of May, to suit the spring or fall crops. There is not much difference in the yield of the early and late sowings, but you must put about twice as much seed in the ground for the latter as for the former. The land yields from 25 to 40 bushels to the acre. I saw a field of five acres sown about the 15th of May last, in new ground, which produced one hundred and ten bushels of the most excellent grain.

The wheat of this country is better than that of the States. The grains are larger and plumper, and a bushel weighs several pounds more.

This country produces oats, peas, tomatoes, and garden vegetables generally, in great abundance. Irish potatoes and turnips grow better here than in the States. Sweet potatoes have not yet been tried, with the exception of an inferior specimen, from the Sandwich Islands, and they did not succeed well. If we had some good seed from the States, I have no doubt we could make them produce very well. Indian corn does not succeed well, and it is not so profitable a crop as other grain, yet it can be raised here in sufficient quantities for all useful purposes, for you need but little, in consequence of not being obliged to feed your stock.

Fruit, such as apples, peaches, cherries, plumbs, pears, melons, &c., thrive here exceedingly well; while wild berries abound here in the utmost profusion. Cranberries are found

in great quantities near the mouth of the Columbia, and are brought up here and to Vancouver, by the Indians, and sold for almost nothing. Blue-berries, raspberries, sal-lal-berries, thorn-berries, crab-apples, a kind of whortle-berry, and strawberries are found in large quantities in every direction in this section of Oregon. The strawberries of this country are peculiarly fine; they are larger in their size than those of the States, and possess a more delicious flavor.

As regards the country for grazing, it is certainly all that any one could wish it. Cattle require no shelter nor feeding, and upon the Yam Hill plains numerous salt springs supply another necessary of their fodder. Cows calve here when fifteen and twenty months old. This is also a good country for raising hogs; upon the Willamette below the fall, and on Columbia, they live upon the Wappato root, and upon the plains they find a plentiful subsistence in the grass and fruit of the white oak. The grass of this country, as I have had occasion to say before, is peculiarly nutritious, and cattle who have been put here to recruit, recover their physical energies with wonderful rapidity while feeding on it. In the last of November, the period of my first visit to this place, I saw a fine sorrel horse, which had been brought to this country by Mr. John Holeman, of Clanton County, Missouri, that was turned upon the grass in Fallatry Plains in the middle of the previous month. He was then so reduced and feeble, with the fatigues he had undergone during the trip from the States, that he could barely raise a trot; but when I saw him, he was in fine condition and curvetting about the plains as gaily as any of the other horses, with whom he was enjoying primitive independence. Cattle that were worked from the States to the Dalles, and from there brought down to the Willamette valley last year, have borne the winter well, and are now thriving rapidly.

The climate of the lower section of Oregon, is indeed, most mild. Having now passed a winter here, permanently and most comfortably established at Linntan, I am enabled to speak of it from personal experience. The winter may be said to commence about the middle of December, and to end about the 10th of February, and a notion of the genial nature of its visitation may be gained from the fact, that I saw strawberries in bloom about the first of last December in the Fallatry Plains, and as early as the 20th of February the wild

flowers were blooming on the hill sides. The grass has now been growing since the 10th of February, and towards the end of that month, the trees were budding and the shrubbery in bloom. About the 26th of November, we had a spell of cold weather, and a slight fall of snow, which, however, was gone in a day or two. In Decem[illegible], we had very little snow, all of it melting as it fell; in January we had more, but all of it like the previous falls, melted as it came down, with the exception of one visitation, that managed to last upon the ground for three days.

The soil has not been frozen more than one inch deep during the whole winter, and ploughing has been carried on without interruption throughout the winter and fall. As regards rains in the winter, I have found them much less troublesome than I anticipated. I had supposed, from what I had heard of the incessant storms of this region, that out-door work could not be done at all here, during the rainy season, but I have found that a great deal more labor of this description can be performed here, than during the same period in the western states. The rains fall in gentle showers, and are generally what is termed drizzling rains, from the effect of which a blanket-coat is an effectual protection for the whole day. They are not the chilly rains which sting you in the fall and spring seasons of the eastern states, but are warm as well as light. They are never hard enough in the worst of times, to wash the roads or fields, and consequently, you can find no gullies worn or cut in your fields by this means.

As to wind, I have *witnessed* less, if such a term can be used, than at any other place I have ever been in, and I have but to say, that if the timber we have here, spread their lofty branches in the States, they would be riven by the lightening, and blown down to an extent that would spare many of them the blow of the settler's axe. Here, I have heard no thunder, and have seen but one tree that had been struck by lightning.

CHAPTER XI.

Aborigines of Oregon—Their numbers and character—Their canoes—Their mode of fishing—Game—Timber—Fish-

eries—Water power—Mountains—A volcano—Commercial, Agricultural, and Manufacturing features of Oregon—Value of the arm of labor.

THE Aborigines of Oregon form, at present, nine-tenths of the population of the whole country, and from their newly adapted habits, are deserving of a place in the social census. They were formerly much more numerous, but like all the savage race, they melt away from the white man's approach like shadows before the advancing sun. I have no means of accurately ascertaining their number, as large bodies of them are in the habit of moving from place to place to reap the varying harvests of the fisheries, but I believe they somewhat exceed 20,000. They are most numerous in the Nez Perces country, which extends eastward from Wallawalla, and considerable numbers of the Cheenooks attracted by the fisheries, are to be found at the Dalles and at the mouth of the Columbia river. They are, however, degenerate and broken. and instead of the proud and warlike being which presents itself to the imagination when the idea of an American Indian enters it, they but offer to the actual beholder the specimen of a creature degraded almost to the level of a beast, and capable of submitting to the most servile abasement. Indeed, so completely are they under the control of the superior intelligence of the Anglo Saxon settler, that they can scarcely be considered in a much more dignified light than as a race of natural villiens or serfs. The Nez Perces Indians retain in a greater degree than any other, their ancient independence; but even the members of this tribe fall readily under the control and mastery of the whites.

The Indians between Wallawalla and the Dalles are a cowardly and thievish set, and the portion of them situated at the latter place, in addition to being degraded and ignorant in the extreme, are so addicted to stealing, that they lay hands on every trifle that comes within their reach. Those portions at Vancouver and in the valley of the Willamette, are abject, servile, and filthy in their habits, and most of them go half naked during the whole year. In both this and the adjoining region, they perform a great deal of work for the whites, and where labor is so scarce as it is here, they are of no slight assistance to the settlements. Many of them make very good hired hands, and they are found particularly useful in rowing

boats, paddling canoes, herding cattle, and in the menial operations which require a sort of refuse labor, if such a term can be used, that would be dear at the outlay of a valuable settler's time. You can hire a Chenook to work upon a farm a week for a shirt worth 83 cents.

These Indians construct the finest canoes in the world. They make them out of the cedar which grows at the mouth of the Columbia, from twenty to thirty feet long, and from three to four feet wide. Their bottoms are flat, like those of skiffs, and being light, this construction, together with the sharp form of the bows, makes them very swift. In fashioning the canoe, they commence upon the middle and taper it gradually to a sharp point at each end, not turning it up with a flourish like the bows and stern of ordinary vessels of the kind. The only ornament they put upon them, is a sort of figure head made of a separate piece of wood, which is fitted on the bows, and is generally beautified with a rude mosaic of sea-shells imbedded in various figures in the wood.

The conduct of the Hudson's Bay Company towards the Indians, has been prompt and discriminating, both in the distribution of benefits, and in the punishment of offences. They have not held a whole tribe responsible for the unauthorised acts of individuals, but have in all casses carefully sought out the real perpetrators and punished them without fail. When the country was first visited by the whites, the natives were of a ferocious and warlike character, and it required sixty men to pass up the Columbia in boats, to ensure the safety of the expedition; but now, a single individual can pass without molestation to the Dalles, and a squad of six or eight may travel in perfect security through any portion of the territory. The Flatheads and Snakes, formerly the most incorrigible, have long been peaceable, honest, and friendly. One of the gentlemen belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, told me that in the many trading expeditions they had had with these tribes, they had never lost the first article, and many times they had purposely exposed their goods to trifling depredations, for the purpose of testing their honesty.

All of the tribes of Oregon wear their hair long, and are exceedingly fond of the dress of the whites; but nothing hold so strong a claim to their admiration, or so firm a seat in their affections, as *a shirt*. A pair of pantaloons holds the next place, a coat next, and so on through the inferior articles

of apparel. They show the most extravagant delight when dressed in these garments, but still prefer to display the shirt on the outside of all. Candor, however, compels me to declare, that those who are fortunate enough to possess one of these articles, generally make it do the duty of full dress. They call the Americans, "Bostons," which title they have adopted in consequence of having been originally informed by Captain Gray, the first pale face who ever entered their territory, that he came from a place called Boston. The English they call King George.

The Indians of Oregon are exceedingly addicted to gambling, and have been known to pursue this demorilising passion to the fatal length of even staking their liberty on a game, and playing themselves, by a run of ill luck, into a state of perpetual slavery. When we estimate the love of a savage for independence, we can arrive at some measurement of the degree of the passion which exacts its sacrifice. Upon the whole, these Indians are of vast benefit to the whites of this region. In the present condition of the settlements, we should lose much by their absence.

Fisheries.—The fisheries of this county are very great, and foremost among all the varieties which they produce, is the unrivalled salmon. It would be impossible to estimate the number of this excellent fish annually taken in the Columbia and its tributaries; but they have been set down at ten thousand barrels a year, which number I do not think by any means too large. The salmon in this country are never caught with a hook. They are sometimes taken by the Indians with a small scoop net, but generally are caught with a sort of spear of a very peculiar description. These are made by the natives after the following fashion. They take a pole, made of ash, or of some hard wood, about ten feet long and one inch thick, and gradually tapering to a point at one end. They then cut a piece, about four inches long, from the sharp prong of a buck's horn, and hollow out the large end so that it fits the pole. About the middle of the buck horn, they make a small hole through which they put a cord, or leather string, that runs along the pole and fastens to it about two feet from the lower end. When they spear a fish with this weapon, the pole is withdrawn and the buck horn barb is left imbedded in the animal's body, or having run through and through it, remains fastened on the other side. Escape is thus

rendered impossible, and the prey unable to elude the prong, is securely drawn in by the string. All the salmon caught here are taken by the Indians, and sold to the whites at about ten cents each, and frequently for less. One Indian will take about twenty upon an average per day.

The salmon taken at different points, differ greatly in kind and quality, and it is only at particular places that they can be taken. The fattest and best are those taken at the mouth of the Columbia, and the next best are those taken in the Columbia, a few miles below Vancouver, at the Cascades, and at the Dalles. Those taken at the Willamette falls, are smaller in size, and inferior in flavor, and are said to be of a different kind. What is singular, this fish cannot be taken in any considerable numbers with large seines, and this is only to be accounted for, by their remarkable shyness, and their superior activity. I believe no white man has yet succeeded in taking them with the gig. They make their appearance in the vicinity of Vancouver, first in the Klackamus river, and the best quality are taken in June.

There are several other kinds of fish in the bays, rivers, and creeks of the territory, of which a species of cod and the sturgeon are the most important. The latter are a large fish, and afford great sport in a leisure hour to take them with a hook and line. They are taken in the Willamette, below the falls! in the Columbia, at all points, and in the Snake or Saptin river, as high up as Fort Boisé. Of shell-fish, we have the crab, clams, muscles, and a small description of oyster.

Game.—The wild animals of this, the first section of Oregon, are the black bear, black-tailed deer, raccoon, panther, polecat, rabbit, wolf, beaver, and a few others. Of these, the deer and the wolves are the most numerous. We have no buffaloes, antelopes, or prairie chickens here, but in the second section the latter species of feathered game are plentiful.

Of fancy birds, we have blue jay, larger, and of a deeper blue than those of the States; the nut-brown wren, a most beautiful and gentle little atom, scarcely larger than the humming-bird; also a species of bird, which resembles the robin in form, color, and size; and also a species of nightingale, that sings the livelong night; but though I have heard these evening songsters, time and again, I have never yet managed to get sight of one. The bald eagle, so well described by

Wilson, is found along all the rivers; but here is obliged to compromise a portion of his lordly character to his necessities, and to work for his own living, having no fish-hawks to catch his game for him. He feeds principally upon the dead salmon he gleans from the surface of the water, as they float downward in the stream, and changes his diet by an occasional swoop upon some unlucky duck, which he catches either while on the wing, or while feeding on the river. If the duck when pursued in the air, can reach the surface of the water, he does so with the utmost speed of wing, and seek a momentary refuge by diving under it. The eagle, balancing himself over the spot of his victim's disappearance, waits until he rises, and then strikes at him again and again, until the latter's strength becomes wasted with the unusual effort, and giving out at length, the relentless conqueror bears him off as he rises languidly and for the last time to the surface of the water. We have also pheasants in abundance, likewise partridges, grouse, brant, pelicans, plovers, wild geese, thrush, gulls, cranes, swans, and ravens, crows and vultures. For a sportsman, this region is a paradise, and a dog and a gun will afford him a chapter of elysium every day of his life.

There is one peculiarly attractive feature, which this country possesses over most others, and that is, that like Old Ireland itself, it has no poisonous reptiles or insects, and better than Ireland, we are not burdened with obligations to any saint for the saintly office of extirpating them, the only snake we have, is the harmless garter-snake, and there are no flies to annoy the cattle.

Timber.—The timber of this section of Oregon, constitutes the main source of its wealth. It is found in inexhaustible quantities on the Columbia, and on the Willamette, just were the water power is at hand to cut it up, and where ships can easily take it on board. The principal timber of this section is the fir, the white cedar, white oak, and black ash. There are three kinds of fir; the white, yellow, and red; all of them fine for plank, shingles, boards, and rails.

The white fir makes the best shingles. The fir is a species of pine, which grows very tall and straight, and stands very thick upon the ground. Thick as they stand, however, when you cut one, it never lodges in its fall, for the reason that it never forks, and the limbs of the others are too small

to stop the descent of its enormous bulk. In the Cascade mountains, and near the mouth of the Columbia river, they rise to the height of three hundred feet. They split exceedingly well, and make the finest boards of any timber I have ever seen. I cut one tree, from which I sawed twenty-four cuts of three foot boards, and there are plenty of such specimens all around me, yet untouched.

The white cedar is very fine timber, and is nearly if not quite equal to the red cedar of the States. In the vicinity of Linntan, it grows to the size of three feet in diameter, and is tall enough to make six rail cuts to the tree. I have cut two warehouse logs, thirty feet long, off one tree, and three of the same logs off a red fir, which was only about fourteen inches in diameter at the stump. The cedar splits remarkably well, makes fine rails, shingles, or house-logs, and lasts a lifetime.

The white oak timber is better for waggon-making than any specimens to be found east of the Rocky Mountains, and it is the best wood that can be had for axe-handles, and for similar purposes. It grows about as tall as in the States. The black oak, which also grows profusely in our forests, makes excellent fire-wood, and answers likewise for many other purposes.

In the range of mountains back of Linntan, we have plenty of the hemlock, the bark of which is fine for tanning hides; and I have no doubt that ere long, the skins that will be stripped from our large herds of stock, will be extensively converted into leather, by its agency. We have also the dog-wood and cherry-maple, sprinkled among the firs and cedars. The hazel of this country is four times larger than that of the States, and is also much tougher in its texture; it is extensively used for hoops, and for the manufacture of a coarse kind of scrub broom. The fruit of this tree is of a lighter color than the hazel-nuts of the States, and they are of the shape and size of a chinkapin acorn. Persons coming from the States will find very little timber here like that to which they have been accustomed, for all of it is on a grander scale. The black ash and dog-wood are very similar to those of Tennessee and Kentucky, and the white oak is perhaps but little different from any eastward of the mountains. But we have no walnut, hickory, percimmon, pawpaw, locust, coffee-nut, chesnut, sugar-tree, box-elder, poplar, sycamore, or elm.

Water Power.—The water power of this country is unequalled, and is found distributed through every section. That at the falls of the Willamette cannot be surpassed in the world. Any quantity of machinery can be put into motion there; but the good water power is not confined to the Willamette falls; for in many places on the Columbia, the Willamette, and the other rivers, there are mill sites as good, though none of them are quite so large. These advantages for converting the timber which surrounds them, into a marketable commodity of great value in the neighbouring ocean, will ere long be appreciated to a far greater extent by even this region, than at present.

Mountains.—We have the most beautiful scenery of North America—we lie upon the largest ocean, we have the purest and most beautiful streams, the loftiest and most majestic trees, and the most stupendous mountains of the continent. The latter, as I have had occasion to mention before, are divided into three great ranges, but as the description of the features of the lower region is at present my especial object, I will pass over the Rocky mountains and the Blue, and confine myself to the President's range which forms the eastern wall of our valley. The several peaks of this range are grand and imposing objects. From Vancouver you have a full and fair view of Mount Hood, to the south, which is called by some the tallest peak of the Cascades, and rises more than sixteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, and ten thousand above the mountains immediately around it. This lofty pile rises by itself in a regular and perfect cone, and is covered with perpetual snow. It is the only peak you can see from Vancouver, as the view in other directions is obscured by tall fir timber. At the mouth of the Willamette, as you enter the Columbia, you have a full view of Mount St. Helens or Mount Washington, and also of Mount Hood. From Linntan you have a very fair view of the former mountain, which is almost fifty miles distant from this point, though it looks as if it were almost within reach. This peak is very smooth and perfectly conical in its form. It is nearly as tall as Mount Hood, and is the most beautiful of the range. It lies immediately on a line with the mouth of the Columbia, and is a land-mark visible several miles at sea and useful in directing vessels to its harbor. Like Mount Hood, it stands alone in its solitary grandeur far above all surrounding ob-

jects and awing them into insignificance. This mountain, which until last year, towered serenely in the air covered with ten thousand perpendicular feet of snow, suddenly burst into a burning volcano, in which state it now remains. The crater is in its side about two-thirds of its distance from its base, and by the account of the Indian inhabitants in its vicinity, it emitted a flood of lava at the time of its eruption, which poured its stream of fire through the whole depth of the virgin sheet that wrapped its sides. A savage who had been hunting deer some distance up the mountain, finding his return to his wigwam thus cut off, took a run and attempted to jump across it, but not being able to clear its breadth, he fell with one foot in the glowing torrent, and was so severely burnt, that he came very nearly being lamed for life. He hastened to Vancouver, however, and by the assistance of Dr. Barclay, at the Fort, was gradually cured.

This mountain is second in height to but one in the world, (Cotopaxi in South America,) and like other volcanoes, it burns at intervals. On one side of it near its top, is discovered a large dark object amid the surrounding snow, which is supposed to be the mouth of a huge cavern, and doubtless is the ancient crater of some expired issue. On the 16th of February, 1844, the mountain burned most magnificently. Dense masses of smoke rose up in immense columns and wreathed the whole crest of the peak in sombre and massive clouds; and in the evening its fire lit up the flaky mountain-side with a flood of soft yet brilliant radiance. The range, of which this is the most distinguishing feature, runs throughout the whole length of the territory, and is remarkable for its separate and independant cones.

Commercial, Agricultural, and Manufacturing advantages.—The commercial advantages of this country are very great. The trade with the Sandwich Islands is daily increasing, and surrounded as we are with a half civilised race of men, our manufacturing power will soon have a home market for itself; besides, South America, California, and the Sandwich Islands, must depend upon us for their lumber. Already large quantities of shingles and plank are sent to the latter market, and we shall also have a full demand for all our other surplus productions at the same port, for most vessels visiting the north Pacific, touch at these islands for the purpose of obtaining supplies of fresh provisions. The Russian settlements are al-

ready dependant on us, and even the markets of China are within reach. For the supply of the regions of the Pacific, and the more northern settlements of the coast, there can be no competition in the way of provisions, as there are no neighbors in the producing line.

I consider Oregon, in many respects, superior to California, as in the latter country, the climate is so warm that pork and beef cannot be put up, and consequently the grazier loses half his profits; besides, its enervating temperature like that of all warm countries, has a degenerating effect upon the enterprise of the inhabitants. For a commercial and a manufacturing people, the climate of Oregon is warm enough. We can here preserve our pork and beef without danger of its tainting before the completion of the packing; and we have finer timber, better water power, and are not subject to the ruinous droughts of California.

Since our arrival, the prospects of the country are very much improved. Business of all kinds is active and times are flourishing. We live in a state of primitive simplicity and independence; we are the victims of no vices; there is no drinking or gambling among us, and Labor meets with such ample inducements and ready rewards, that lazy men are made industrious by the mere force of the influences around them.

Farming is considered the best business of this country. The business of making and putting up butter, which is never worth less than twenty cents per pound, is very profitable. A good fresh article is, I am told, never worth less than fifty cents and often brings one dollar per pound in the Pacific islands. There are now in operation, or will be this summer, mills enough to supply the whole population with flour. There is no scarcity of provisions at the prices I have previously stated, and I find that the emigrants who came out last year, live very comfortably, are perfectly content with their change, and are much improved in their appearance since the time of their arrival.

We have the finest spar timber, perhaps, in the world, and vessels arriving at the Columbia often take off a quantity for that purpose. The saw mills at the Willamette Falls cut large quantities of plank which they sell at two dollars per hundred. In speaking of the fir before, I omitted stating that it made excellent coal for blacksmith's purposes; and I will

farther remark that it is singular that neither the fir nor the cedar, when burned, makes no ashes. It has been supposed that the timbered land of this country will be hard to clear up, but I have come to a different conclusion from the fact that the fir timber has very little top, is easily kindled, and burns readily. It also becomes seasoned very soon, and it is the opinion of good farmers that the timbered land will make the best wheat-fields of the country.

When an individual has any idle time, he can employ himself in making fir and cedar shingles, for the first of which he can get four dollars a thousand, and for the second, five; any quantity of them can be disposed of at these rates. Carpenters and other mechanics obtain three dollars per day and found. There is employment in abundance for every one desiring it, and it is only necessary for a man to be industrious to accomplish sure success and surround himself with all the comforts of an earthly paradise.

CHAPTER XII.

Concluding remarks—Directions to Emigrants—Line of route and table of distances, &c.

HAVING now completed an account of all the material points of our expedition into Oregon, and furnished the inquirer a general idea of its character and capabilities, the only thing that remains for me to do in the limits of this sketch, is to add a few more directions for the emigrant, for whose particular benefit, as I said before, these imperfect notes are furnished. I have shown, indeed the result of our expedition proved, that the route from the Rendezvous in Missouri, to this point, is practicable for any description of conveyance, and the success of our cattle in coming through, adds an assurance that it is remarkable as well, for its extraordinary emigrating facilities. If this needs any corroboration, a world of evidence can be furnished to sustain it, as well as every fact I have advanced; but in support of the peculiar feasibility of the route across the Indian territories of the States and along the line of the Platte, I will merely refer the reader to the

fact, that Mr. Ashley, in an expedition in 1836, drew a field piece, (a six pounder) from Missouri, across the prairies, through the southern pass, to a fort on Utah lake (to the south of the southern boundary line,) the whole journey being a distance of 1200 miles; and to the additional fact that in 1828, a large number of heavily laden waggons performed the same journey with ease and without an accident.

It will be remarked that I have slurred over portions of the route and neglected the regular incidents of much of our daily travel, but when it is remembered that the journey lasted six months, and that the events of many successive days scarcely varied from each other, the reader will come to the conclusion that it would have been hardly wise in me to have taxed his patience with each day's dull routine. The great object, I considered to be, the furnishing the course of the route, a view of its general aspect and difficulties, the distances between points of travel, (the main object of the present chapter) and to impart an accurate notion of the region which the settler must make his future home. I have therefore avoided every thing that did not contribute to this design, with the exception of a few trifling incidents of humor inseparable from such an expedition, which I introduced to enliven the monotony of the narrative, and which, moreover, I considered useful, as affording an idea of camp life, and the amusements of a journey over the prairies.

Emigrants should start as early a possible in ordinary seasons. The first of May should be set down if possible as the outside limit, and even as early as the first of April would do. For those coming from the Platte country, it is thought to be most advisable to cross the Missouri at McPherson's ferry, in Holt county, and to take up the ridge between the Platte and the Kansas rivers.

Companies of forty or fifty waggons are large enough, and I would advise bodies of travellers for this region to keep within that measure. Large bodies prove unwieldly to arrange and to control; the numerous stock attached to them become troublesome, and moreover large bodies of Americans are prone to differ in opinion. Small collections offer but few inducements to a disordered ambition, but large ones are conducive of selfish strife and discord. This has been seen to have been the case with our expedition; which divided after crossing the Kansas; and which was further subdivided af-

terwards, on the other side of the mountains. I did not particularize this latter circumstance, because I considered it of minor importance at the time, and it is now sufficient for my purpose to mention it here, as a caution against the error which induced it, for the future.

In driving stock to this country, about one in ten is lost; not more. Having started, the best way to proceed to save your teams, is to drive a reasonable distance every day, and to stop and go into camp about an hour before sun-down. This gives time for all the necessary arrangements of the encampment, and affords the teams an opportunity to rest and eat before the night sets in. About eight hours drive in the long days—resting an hour at noon—is, I think enough for one day's travel, and you should make it a rule never to drive irregularly if you can help it. Along the whole line of the Platte, on the Bear and Boisé rivers, and in many other places you can encamp at any point you please; but at some points of the route you will be compelled to drive hard to get water and range for your cattle.

When you reach the country of the buffalo, never stop your waggons to hunt, as you will consume more provisions during the delay than you will save by the amount of your game; for it is generally consumed at once from the difficulty of curing it, in consequence of the warmth of the weather. Let your horsemen and scouts perform this duty, and supply this want for you; and if they use proper exertions, they can keep you all in fresh meat throughout the whole of the country of game. Any one wishing the amusement of this sport, should bring along an extra horse, and not use him until he reaches the buffalo region, as the hunting of this animal is rough work, and emigrants must needs be very careful they do not break their horses down. A prudent care should be taken of horses, teams, and provisions from the start, and no extra exertion should be required from the two first, and nothing of the last should be thrown away that can be eaten.

If a prudent course be taken, the trip can be made in ordinary seasons, in four months. It is true it took us longer, but we lost a great deal of time upon the road, and besides, we had the way to break. I have reason to beleive, that other and better routes than the one travelled by us can be found. Captain Gant, our pilot, was decidedly of the opinion, that to keep up the south fork of the Platte, and to cross it

just above the stream called the Kooshlapood, and thence up the latter stream, passing between the Black Hills on your right, and the Rocky Mountains on your left, and striking by this course at last the ordinary route by Green river, would be a better and nearer way into Oregon, and more plentifully supplied with game than the one we took. He had travelled both, and only brought us through the road he did, to avoid the large bands of Sioux and Black feet Indians, whom he had been informed were hunting upon the southern route.

The following table of distances, it is proper for me to say, is a rough calculation made up from an estimate of our daily travel. It consequently does not claim the accuracy of a geometrical admeasurement, but it is thought by those to whom I have submitted it, to be not far out of the way.

A TABLE OF DISTANCES FROM INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, TO THE INTERMEDIATE POINTS BETWEEN THAT TOWN AND ASTORIA AT THE MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

	Miles.
From Independence to the Rendezvous	20
Rendezvous to Elm Grove	15
From Elm Grove to Walpalusia	22
Walpalusia to Kansas river	31
Kansas River to Big Sandy creek	31
Big Sandy to Hurricane Branch	12
Hurricane Branch to East fork of Blue river	20
East fork to West fork of Blue River	15
West fork to where we came in sight of the Republican fork of the Blue River	41
Up Republican fork of the Blue River to where we left it to cross over to the Big Platte River	66
Up the Platte to where we saw the first herd of Buffalo	56
Up the same to the crossing on the South fork of same	117
South fork to crossing on North fork of same	31
Crossing of North fork to Cedar Grove	13
Cedar Grove to Solitary Tower	18
Solitary Tower to Chimney Rock	18
Chimney Tower to Scott's Bluffs	20
Scott's Bluffs to Fort Larimie	38
Fort Larimie to Big Spring at foot of Black Hills	8

	Miles.
Big Spring to Keryan on North fork of Platte	30
Keryan to crossing of North fork	84
Crossing of North fork to Sweetwater River	55
Up Sweetwater River to where we first saw the eternal snows of the Rocky Mountains	60
From the above point to main dividing ridge of Rocky Mountains	40
From dividing ridge to Little Sandy River	16
Little Sandy to Big Sandy	14
Big Sandy to Green River	25
Down same	12
To Black's fork of Green River	22
From Black's fork to Fort Bridger	30
Fort Bridger to Big Muddy River	20
Big Muddy to Bear River	37
Down Bear River to range of hills mentioned as running up to its bank	57
Down Bear River to Great Soda Spring	38
From Soda Spring to the Portneuf River, the first water of the Columbia	25
To Fort Hall in the Snake or Saptin River	58
From Fort Hall to the Portneuf again	11
Portneuf to Rock Creek	87
Rock Creek to Salmon Falls on the Saptin	42
Salmon Falls to crossing on the Saptin	27
From crossing of Saptin to Boiling Spring	19
Boiling Spring to Boisé River	48
Down same to Fort Boisé on Saptin	40
Fort Boisé to Burnt River	41
Up Burnt River for	26
From last point to Powder River at "the Lone Pine,"	18
From "the Lone Pine" to Grand Round	15
Grand Round to the Umatilla River on the west of the Blue Mountains	43
Umatilla to Dr. Whitman's Mission	29
Mission to Fort Wallawalla	25
Wallawalla to the Dalles Mission	120
Dalles to Vancouver	100
Vancouver to Astoria	80
Astoria to the Ocean	10
Making in all from Independence to the Pacific ocean	2036

From Independence to Vancouver by the above computation is 1946 miles by the route we travelled. I am well satisfied that the distance does not exceed 2000 miles, for the reason that our ox teams could not have accomplished a greater distance within the time of their actual employment.

The trip to Oregon is neither a costly nor an expensive one, and an individual can travel here at as small an expense, as he can move from Tennessee or Kentucky, to Missouri. All the property he starts with he can bring through, and it is worth, upon his arrival, more than when he set out.

To conclude, there is no country in the world where the wants of man can be so readily supplied, and upon such easy terms as in this; and none where the beauties of nature are displayed upon a grander scale.

The chief value of this country, I must remark in closing, lies in the advantages it offers for a direct route to the East Indies and the ports of the Pacific ocean. Already these have been embraced by the Hudson's Bay settlers, and even now, the products of this region have grown to an importance that would make them sadly missed by several of the island markets and settlements upon the western coasts which they have of late supplied. Every day adds to their amount and their demand, and any ordinary segacity may see in this fact, the promise of their future importance in the commercial world.

THE END.

APPENDIX.

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(No. 1.)

Convention between the United States and Russia, signed at St. Petersburg, on the 17th of April, 1824.

ARTICLE 1. It is agreed that, any part of the great ocean, commonly called the Pacific Ocean, or South sea, the respective citizens or subjects of the high contracting powers shall be neither disturbed nor restrained, either in navigation or in fishing, or in the power of resorting to the coasts, upon points which may not already have been occupied, for the purpose of trading with the natives; saving always the restrictions and conditions determined by the following articles.

ART. 2. With the view of preventing the rights of navigation and of fishing, exercised upon the great ocean by the citizens and subjects of the high contracting powers, from becoming the pretext for an illicit trade, it is agreed that the citizens of the United States shall not resort to any point where there is a Russian establishment, without the permission of the governor or commander; and that, reciprocally, the subjects of Russia shall not resort, without permission, to any establishment of the United States upon the north-west coast.

ART. 3. It is, moreover, agreed that hereafter there shall not be formed by the citizens of the United States, or under the authority of the said States, any establishment upon the north-west coast of America, nor in any of the islands adjacent, *to the north* of 54 degrees and 50 minutes of north lati-

tude; and that, in the same manner, there shall be none formed by Russian subjects, or under the authority of Russia, *south* of the same parallel.

ART. 4. It is, nevertheless, understood that, during a term of ten years, counting from the signature of the present convention, the ships of both powers, or which belong to their citizens or subjects, respectively, may reciprocally frequent, without any hinderance whatever, the interior seas, gulfs, harbors, and creeks, upon the coast mentioned in the preceding article, for the purpose of fishing and trading with the natives of the country.

ART. 5. All spirituous liquors, fire-arms, other arms, powder, and munitions of war of every kind, are always excepted from this same commerce permitted by the preceding article; and the two powers engage, reciprocally, neither to sell, nor suffer them to be sold, to the natives, by their respective citizens and subjects, nor by any person who may be under their authority. It is likewise stipulated, that this restriction shall never afford a pretext, nor be advanced, in any case, to authorize either search or detention of the vessels, seizure of the merchandize, or, in fine, any measures of constraint whatever, towards the merchants or the crews who may carry on this commerce; the high contracting powers reciprocally reserving to themselves to determine upon the penalties to be incurred, and to inflict the punishments in case of the contravention of this article by their respective citizens or subjects.

(No. 2.)

Copy of the Convention between his Britannic Majesty and the King of Spain, commonly called the Nootka Treaty, of October, 1790.

ARTICLE 1. The buildings and tracts of land situated on the north-west coast of the Continent of North America, or on the islands adjacent to that Continent, of which the subjects of his Britannic majesty were dispossessed about the month of April, 1789, by a Spanish officer, shall be restored to the said British subjects.

ART. 2. A just reparation shall be made according to the nature of the case, for all acts of violence and hostility which may have been committed subsequent to the month of April, 1789, by the subjects of either of the contracting parties against the subjects of the other; and in case the said respective subjects shall, since the same period, have been forcibly dispossessed of their lands, buildings, vessels, merchandize, and other property whatever on the said Continent, or on the seas and islands adjacent, they shall be re established in the possession thereof, or a just compensation shall be made to them for the losses which they have sustained.

ART. 3. In order to strengthen the bonds of friendship, and to preserve in future a perfect harmony and good understanding between the two contracting parties, it is agreed, that their respective subjects shall not be disturbed or molested, either in negociating or carrying on thir fisheries in the Pacific Ocean or in the South Seas, or in landing on the coast of these seas, in places not already occupied, for the purpose of carrying on their commerce with the natives of the country, or of making settlements there; the whole subject, nevertheless, to the instructions specified in these following articles.

ART. 4. His Britannic majesty engages to take the most effectual measures to prevent the navigation, and the fishing of his subjects in the Pacific Ocean, or in the South Seas, from being made a pretext for illicit trade with the Spanish settlements; and with this view, it is moreover, expressly stipulated, that British subjects shall not navigate or carry on their fisheries in the said seas, within the space of ten sea leagues from any part of the coasts already occupied by Spain.

ART. 5. As well in the places which are to be restored to the British subjects by virtue of the first Article, as in all other parts of the north-western coast of America, or of the islands adjacent, situated to the north of the parts of the said coast already occupied by Spain, wherever the subjects of the two powers shall have made settlements, since the month of April, 1789, or shall hereafter make any, the subjects of the other shall have free access, and shall carry on their trade without any disturbance or molestation.

ART. 6. With respect to the eastern and western coasts of South America, and to the islands adjacent, no settlement shall be formed hereafter by the respective subjects in such

part of those coasts as are situated to the south of those parts of the same coasts, and of the islands adjacent, which are already occupied by Spain; provided, that the said respective subjects shall retain the liberty of landing on the coasts and islands so situated. for the purposes of their fishery, and of erecting thereon, huts and other temporary buildings, serving only for those purposes.

ART. 7. In all cases of complaint, or infraction of the articles of the present convention, the officers of either party, without permitting themselves previously to commit any violence or acts of force, shall be bound to make an exact report of the affair, and of its circumstances, to their respective courts who will terminate such differences in an amicable manner,

ART. 8. The present convention shall be ratified and confirmed in the space of six weeks, to be computed from the day of its signature, or sooner, if it can be done.

"In witness whereof, we, the undersigned, plenipotentaries of their Britannic and Catholic majesties have in their names, and by virtue of respective full powers, signed the present convention, and set thereto the seals of our Arms. Done at the palace of St. Lawrence, the 28th of October, 1790.

[L. S.] "EL CONDE DE FLORIDA BANCA.
[L. S.] "ALLEYNE FITHZHEBERT."

(No 3.)

Convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed at London, October 20th, 1818.

ARTICLE. 2. It is agreed that a line drawn from the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods, along the 49th parallel of north latitude, or, if the said point shall not be in the 49th parallel of north latitude, then that a line drawn from the said point due north or south, as the case may be, until the said line shall intersect the said parallel of north latitude, and from the point of such intersection due west along and with the said parallel, shall be the line of debarkation between the territories of the United States and those of his Britannic majesty; and that the said line shall form the northern boundary of the said territories of the United States, and the southern boundaries of the said territories of his Bri-

tannic Majesty, from the Lake of the Woods to the Stony Mountains.

ART. 3. It is agreed that any country that may be claimed by either party on the north-west coast of America, westward of the Stony Mountains, shall, together with its harbors, bays, and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be free and open for the term of ten years from the date of the signature of the present convention, to the vessels, citizens, and subjects, of the two powers; it being well understood that this agreement is not to be construed to the prejudice of any claim which either of the two high contracting parties may have to any part of the said country, nor shall it be taken to affect the claims of any other power or state to any part of the said country; the only object of the high contracting parties, in that respect, being to prevent disputes and differences among themselves.

(No. 4.)

Treaty between Spain and the United States, called the Florida Treaty, signed at Washington, February 22d, 1819.

ARTICLE 3. The boundary line between the two countries west of the Mississipi shall begin on the Gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the River Sabine, in the sea, continuing north, along the western bank of that river, to the 32d degree of latitude; thence, by a line due north, to the degree of latitude where it strikes the Rio Roxo of Natchitoches, or Red River; then, following the course of the Rio Roxo westward, to the degree of longitude 100 west from London and 23 from Washington; then crossing the said Red River, and running thence, by a line due north, to the River Arkansas; thence following the course of the southern bank of the Arkansas, to its source in latitude 42 north; and thence, by that parallel of latitude, to the South Sea; the whole being as laid down in Melish's map of the United States, published at Philadelphia, improved to the 1st of January, 1818. But, if the source of the Arkansas River shall be found to fall north or south of latitude 42, then the line shall run from the said source due south or north, as the case may be, till it meets the said parallel of latitude 42, and thence, along the said parallel, to the South Sea; all the islands in the Sabine, and the said Red and Arkansas Rivers, throughout the course thus described,

to belong to the United States; but the use of the waters and the navigation of the Sabine to the sea, and of the said Rivers Roxo and Arkansas, throughout the extent of the said boundary, on their respective banks, shall be common to the respective inhabitants of both nations.

The two high contracting parties agree to cede and renounce all their rights, claims, and pretensions, to the territories described by the said line; that is to say, the United States hereby cede to his Catholic Majesty, and renounce for ever, all their rights, claims, and pretensions, to the territories lying west and south of the above described line; and in like manner, his Catholic Majesty ceeds to the said United States all his rights, claims, and pretensions, to any territories east and north of the said line; and for himself, his heirs, and successors, renounces all claim to the said territories for ever.

(No. 5.)

Convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed at London, August 6th, 1827.

ARTICLE 1. All the provisions of the third article of the convention concluded between the United States of America and his majesty the king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on the 20th of October, 1818, shall be, and they are hereby, further indefinitely extended and continued in force, in the same manner as if all the provisions of the said article were herein specifically recited.

ART. 2. It shall be competent, however, to either of the contracting parties, in case either should think fit, at any time after the 20th of October, 1828, on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party, to annul and abrogate this convention; and it shall, in such case, be accordingly entirely annulled and abrogated, at the expiration of such notice.

ART. 3. Nothing contained in this convention, or in the third article of the convention of 20th October, 1818, hereby continued in force, shall be construed to impair or in any way affect the claims which either of the contracting parties may have to any part of the country westward of the Stony or Rocky Mountains.

London:—Printed by W. LOTT, 21, Abchurch Lane, City.

The Return Journey of Dr. E. White and party, from Vancouver, across the Rocky Mountains to Independence, in Missouri, U. S.

We had the pleasure, on Saturday evening last, Dec. 6th, of taking by the hand our old friend Dr. Elijah White, subagent of Indian affairs for the territory of Oregon, who had just arrived with a party of only three men, Messrs. Chapman, Brown, and Saxton, all claiming to be citizens of Willamette, two of whom, Oras Brown and Charles Saxton, had accompanied him some time previously on an interesting and important exploring expedition, the results of which will soon come before the public officially.

They left the beach of the Pacific on the 30th of July, 1845 some 40 miles from the Umqua river, and arrived in the colony about the 10th of August. They found the Legislature in session at Oregon city, and Dr. White being officially requested to bear a memorial and petition emanating from that body and signed unanimously by them, also by the judge of the territory and executive committee—to the Congress of the United States, left on the 16th. They arrived at Fort Vancouver on the 17th, the Dalles of the Columbia on the 20th, and on the 23rd proceeded on their journey.

At the first camp, Major Moses Harris, *alias* " Black Harris," his pilot and his dependence, as interpreter for the Sioux and Pawnee Indians, in passing through their country, without any difference or explanation, withdrew from the party and returned to the valley. Surprised, but nothing intimidated, they moved forward. They met the Wallawalla Indians —so much excited the spring before, by reason of the violent and treacherous death of Elijah Heading, an educated young chief of distinction, killed by a white man at California—and were handsomely saluted and most cordially received—the excitement having entirely subsided. Corn, potatoes, peas, camas, and cherries, were brought forward for the consumption of the party, and their plantations, with those of the Kiuse, speak well for their advancement in agriculture and civilisation. Not many of the Wallawallas cultivate; they generally subsist on fish. But the Kiuse and Nezperees, or Scheptans, under the auspices of Dr. Whitman and lady, and Rev. H. H. Spaulding and lady, are represented as having made most commendable advances in agriculture, science,

arts, morals, and religion; many of the latter reading their own language fluently and writing well, and in the regularity of their family devotions and observance of the Sabbath, it is beleived few equal them.

On the 1st of September they met at Burnt River, Capts. Barlow, Knighton, and Macdonalds companies of emigrants, the three companies comprising some eight hundred persons, with eighty-seven waggons, within some three hundred and fifty miles of their destination, all in good health and fine spirits, representing the difficulties of the route as nothing in comparison with what they had expected. While the Doctor was giving them an intellectual treat, to which all listened with indescribable interest, some of the ladies prepared a rich repast for him and his little party; coffee, sugar, bread, biscuits, buttermilk, and honey, with bacon, rice, and several kinds of dried fruits, were nicely spread out; they ate and drank, talked, and mutually cheered each other, and parted in the happiest mood. At different points, for a distance of a hundred and thirty miles, they met others—each party soliciting, they all received a lecture on Oregon. The last party, called the St. Joseph Company, were met at Snake River, camped disadvantageously, being some two-and-a-half miles from wood or water on the sandy desert; but they found them in good spirits, and after advising them at some length on Oregon, the party was invited to dinner, and sat down to a table in the tent of the Rev. M. Fisher, a Baptist clergyman spread with a white cloth, and partook of tea, light bread, crackers, maple molasses, dried beef, and butter, all prepared in the neatest manner. This company were mostly New England people, had emigrated to Iowa and thence to Oregon, and carried their virtues and intelligence over the mountains with them. All much happier and better for the interview, the party took their leave of this interesting group of venerable sires, aged matrons, and smiling youth, and passed on to Fort Hall, where they arrived on the 19th of September, and met a cordial reception from Captain Grant. On the 23d they passed the romantic and interesting soda springs where all drank freely.

On the 27th met Dr. Joseph Burk, botanist and mineralogist, sent out by the English Government to make collections and return in seven years from the time of his departure—dined with him—found him an intelligent, unassuming gen-

tleman. The party passed the *divide* on the 4th of October, all walking over it, and on striking the sweet water, all drank, not a little pleased to behold the water once more running into the Atlantic. On the 13th of October, came in sight of a large Sioux villiage of some 300 lodges, and containing 2,000 souls —went immediately to it—were met by several chiefs, and the party conducted by them to the Soldier's-lodge, where they feasted on the choicest buffalo meat. Dr. White exchanged a horse with a chief, at the Indian's request, and left, after tarrying two hours, the party being as much pleased with their reception as the Indians appeared to be in entertaining them. They encamped three miles below the village, horses unmolested and nothing missed. Next day met Smoke, a notable chief, and 200 Indians with him, moving up to the large village which they had passed—exchanged the usual salutations of the day, and all went off most agreeably. On the 15th reached Fort Larimie, where the party were hospitably entertained, as at Fort Hall, by Mr. Papin. Left on the 16th, having purchased a sufficient quantity of dried buffalo meat and flour, with groceries, to last to Independene, intending to accomplish the journey with all possible expedition, and not to stop to kill game. On the 17th met eight or nine ox teams, heavily loaded with goods for trading with the Indians, in charge of Captain Finch, who had a trading post seven miles below Fort Larimie, on the Platte. On the 18th met Mr. Spane—had also several teams loaded with goods for trading with the Sioux; he had buried his partner the day previous, having died of a nervous fever. On the 29th, met two men on an express to Fort Larimie from the American Fur Company at St. Lonis. They told the Doctor he would probably meet the Pawnee Indians before leaving the Platte, and if he did, they would rob him and his party.

On the 31st, at about eleven o'clock, the Doctor riding in front of the party to keep a look out for the Pawnees, discovered a large smoke ahead, halted, adjusted the pack animals, and then went cautiously on again; proceeded a few miles, when a horse was discovered three or four miles ahead, tied, and apparently uneasy. The party were now convinced that the Pawnees were not far off; halted again, and each man examined his fire-arms. The doctor proposed to leave the road and go into the hills, and keep on travelling all night to avoid coming in contact with Indians, whose character was that of

highway robbers. They did so, and proceeded four or five miles in the direction of the hills, when three Indians were seen in front of them, advancing; the party went on a short distance, and twelve or fifteen came up to them. The Doctor made signs to them to keep away, and that he was in great haste to go on, but they all came up; when the Doctor stopped, requested Saxton to get off his horse and open a pack, get some tobacco and give them; he did so, and gave them all there was; mounted his horse again, when one of the pack horses took fright at the Indians, and ran with great violence, but was at last caught by Chapman and Saxton, and the pack adjusted by them, ready to go on again. But an Indian, who had been very impudent and saucy, now came to Chapman and asked him for powder; he refused to give him any, when the rascally Indian cocked his gun. At the suggestion of the Doctor, Chapman gave him some powder and he went off; but while the Doctor was talking to Chapman six or seven had surrounded him, and two had his horse by the bridle, when he asked Brown to come to him. Brown did so, presenting his pistol at one of them, and the Doctor motioning to them at the same time, with his six-shooter in his hand, to be off, they left, and the party collected their animals and started again towards the hills, where a large Pawnee village, of some three hundred lodges, appeared in sight, several miles from the road.

As the Indians left the party they fired three times at them, and the shot fell thickly around Brown—the Indians going towards the village, and the party from it, over the hills. When out of sight of the Indians and the village, the party again halted, filled their powder horns and took a good quantity of balls in their pouches, and went on again; but they had scarcely started, when two Indians were seen coming from towards the village over the hills. Soon another, and another appeared in sight, each coming from different directions; and in ten minutes from the time the first two appeared in sight, the party were completely surrounded by two or three hundred men, armed with rifles, muskets, bows and arrows, tomahawks, and war-clubs, while the air resounded with the awful war-whoop as they still continued to dash upon them on their fleet horses. Seeing that four could do nothing by firing on such numbers, the Doctor told the party not to fire, while the Indians were in great confusion among themselves.

The first who came talked loud and boisterous, and began to catch the pack horses, when it was proposed to go with them to the village.

In the meantime all was confusion, some snatching a rifle from one, while another caught a blanket from another, and ran off. Saxton first got under way, following his packed horse, having many valuable papers, and surrounded by some twenty Indians. They soon stripped him of his powder horn and his horse and saddle, and put him bare-back, while a brave, with a large battle-axe, led his horse by the bridle. Brown followed Saxton in a similar manner, passed him, and was the first to grace their fiendish triumph as they entered their villages in full gallop. The Doctor was next suffered to start towards the village, but not until they had torn his coat into pieces, and stripped him of his vest. One Indian then struck him a hard blow on the right cheek; another hit him two blows on the top of his head with a war club, which nearly deprived him of his senses. With nothing left but his flannel shirt and pantaloons, he passed Saxton soon after Brown, with a brave leading his horse, and a chief riding behind him, embracing him in his arms. Chapman followed immediately after Brown; they struck him several times as he was riding; he was hurried along and taken into the village. The Doctor was last on the ground, and was conducted into the lodge of a chief, but not permitted to converse with any of his party; the rest of the men were conducted to separate lodges, and treated in a similar manner.

The party were fed several times during the evening on boiled corn, at several lodges, accompanied by an Indian, but were not permitted to be together, except about ten minutes at a time. The first impression made upou the Doctor and all the party on entering the lodges was, that the chief would cause most of the property to be given back, but before morning all were convinced to the contrary, by having their packs opened and pillaged of everything of value; not even letters to people in the States were omitted. Dr. White lost many of his most valuable papers, and some twenty letters, though he mailed at this place 541, to various persons in the Union. After robbing the party of all their provisions and clothing, as well as horses, in the morning several squaws, true to the character of women, put up some corn, and the chiefs who were at the head of the outrage brought forward several poor,

lame ponies and mules, and gave each man a few old garments scarcely enough to cover him, much less to protect him from the inclement season. A little after sunset they told them to be off, pointing over the hills where they were taken prisoners.

In the lodge where Saxton stopped during the night, while Brown was with him a few moments, an old chief came in with a large packet of papers, evidently robbed from some individual, but he would not suffer him to read any of them except the wrapper, which was of the kind of paper used for envelopes in the War Department, and directed on the envelope: —"Tangawanga, Chief of the Otto Nation." The Indian then opened the package, and took out a passport from the United States, and a large paper having ten or twelve seals on it, opposite to which were many signatures, a large paper resembling a deed, and a French passport; he then folded them all up, after pointing to the coat of arms on each, but would not suffer them to be investigated; putting them all into the envelope, laid them under his thigh, gave a contemptuous laugh, and soon left the lodge. The party travelled till one o'clock at night without a drop of water, on the day they left the village on the open prairie, taking as their guide the north star, and going in an easterly direction.

The Doctor was very much indisposed, owing to the violent blows he had received. Soon after the party were out of sight of the village, the smoke behind told them that their enemies had fired the prairie, and all that day the wind drove the fire hard upon the party, and at night the flames of the tall grass were seen behind them mingling with the horizon, giving it the appearance of an ocean of fire. One of the party kept watch while the others slept, or rather dozed.

Next morning, taking a bite of raw corn, they continued their course north-east; the party and poor animals suffering extreme want of water. About ten o'clock they found a stagnant pool, where all the party were once more sensible of the watchful care of Divine Providence. They continued on in the same direction till three o'clock, when the party struck a deep ravine and began to follow it, but they had only proceeded a short distance when the Doctor discovered two Indians far in the distance to the south-east; the parties stopped, concealed themselves in the ravine, Brown crept to the bank to watch their movements—the Indians advanced a little, then stopped. The Doctor then prepared to retreat and change the course of

travel, and the party readily complied with his suggestion, went up the ravine some distance, took a southerly direction, and travelled some six miles, when they struck a small creek, kept their course still towards the south, and just at dark struck the Oregon road, to the great joy of all the party. They then encamped that night at twelve o'clock on the Republican Fork, again eating raw corn for supper.

On the 3d of November they considered themselves nearly out of reach of the Pawnees, being fifty miles from their village. They arrived at the bank of the Big Blue on the evening of the 7th, when, on entering the tall forest trees, by the light of the moon, a large flock of turkeys were heard among the branches. All were excited with pleasing anticipations of once more tasting something palatable, as the corn, in whatever state it was taken, for several days had soured on the stomach of the men, and they ate it only to keep them from starving. The next morning Brown's well-directed rifle brought a fat turkey to the ground. After the turkey was dispatched, they returned to the corn again, as the Indians gave them only two rifles having percussion locks, with no more amunition, the other rifle was unloaded to strike fire with the powder.

On the evening of the 13th they ate the first meal in the house of Mr. C. Fish, quickly prepared by his lady, residing among the Shawnee Indians, 30 miles from the United States line.

The Doctor left the Willamette colony in a very flourishing state, and is of opinion that Oregon, at no distant day, will rival many of the Atlantic States in agriculture, science, and the arts. In this opinion all the party concur, and they intend to return again in the spring.

A daily computation makes the distance from

Oregon City to Fort Hall	800	miles.
Fort Hall to Green River	105	,,
Green River to Fort Larimie	400	,,
Fort Larimie to Independence	630	,,
Total.....	2,025	

The *St. Louis Republican* of the 24th of November, says :—

"Dr. White is now on his way to Washington, the bearer of a memorial to Congress, from all classes of citizens in Oregon—American, English, French, and half-breeds—asking for the extension of the authority and government of the

United States over that infant territory. The documents are sealed, addressed to the care of the Missouri delegation, and will, of course, not be made known until presented to Congress.

At the time of the departure of Dr. White, the printing press and types intended for the first newspaper in Oregon had not arrived, but it was daily expected.—*From the Independence Press.*