

REPRINT DEPARTMENT

George Wilkes: History of Oregon, Geographical, Geological and Political. (New York, Colyer, 1845.)

[The reprint of this rare work was begun in the first number of the Washington Historical Quarterly and has been continued in portions of varying lengths. For the sake of librarians and others who have kept the files, the work is here continued.—*Editor.*]

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 of 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 situation for a small 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 southeasterly direction from the parent stream. This course, aided by a slight southern inclination of the great river, immediately after receiving it, forms a triangle, the point of which is 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 cottonwood. It is overflowed 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 steamboat. 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 impressions of the refinements of the mission, and the peculiarly domestic comforts which the excellent ladies attached to the establishments 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 1,600 to 1,700 yards wide. The Fort, which is the principal establishment of the Hudson'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 (among which is a schoolhouse), used for the various purposes of residences and workshops for those attached to the establishment. This colony is enclosed by a barrier of pickets twenty feet in height. On the bank of the river, six hundred yards farther 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, etc., and about three miles above the fort 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 3,000 to 4,000 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 vegetables 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 attendant upon hewing timber for the saw mills, the British residents do not hesitate to press into their service the neighboring Iroquois, and 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 McLaughlin and Mr. James Douglass, the second in command. They both tendered me the hospilities of the fort, which offer, it is scarcely necessary to say, I accepted willingly and with pleasure. Dr. McLaughlin is the Governor 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 Doctor McLaughlin 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 company, and to control its wayward servants, while thus far removed from the reach of other civil authority. Doctor McLaughlin 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 sifting 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 allotted 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 everything, 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 goods 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

*A long description of the different trading posts belonging to the H. B. Co. has been left out, in consequence of the previous supply of that information in the demonstration and title in the Geographical sketch.

with all the dangers of the passage. He held out stubbornly against their united wishes, until accused of cowardice, when he relinquished 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 helpless 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 preceded 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 toward the Indians has, it is true, been very seriously condemned, as will be seen by Mr. Spaulding's communication, embraced in Mr. Pendleton's report, but it is very questionable whether Dr. McLaughlin is justly chargeable with all the evils that have arisen out of it. It is certainly true that he has been in some measures 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 toward 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 went 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 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 these 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 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 luxuries of beef and 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 settlements from the States, the Company, who monopolize the commerce and manu-

factures 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 a bushel; potatoes, 40 cents; fresh pork, 10 cents, pickled 12½; fresh beef, 6 cents per pound. American cows bring from \$50 to \$75, and Spanish from \$30 to \$40; oxen from \$75 to \$125, 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—Multnomah—McFarley and Dumberton—Their New Positions—The Half Breeds.

I have stated before that the special object of my journey to Vancouver was to consummate the arrangements 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 with 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 Walla Walla to this post?"

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

"Mr. McKinley has done very wrong," said he, shaking his head, "very wrong indeed! Your cattle are superior to those 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 in 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.

*There is nothing wonderful in all this. The Doctor could do business in no other way with the class of customers he seeks, and as for the taking of the note at the end of the year, when the misfortunes of his creditor have left nothing else to take, it is a measure strictly protective of himself, and has nothing of generosity in it. The Doctor is doubtless a very excellent man, but the above circumstances only prove him to be a very good merchant.

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 expedition, was practicing 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 Willamette, 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 disemogue 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 cottonwood, 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 this place may be found innumerable 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 at 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 Willamette 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 the 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 exuberant 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 horseshoe; its convex sweeping toward 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 inexhaustible range. How far apart this horseshoe 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 underlating 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 were 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 valleys about ten yards wide, and where these valleys 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 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 distance 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 likewise an independent government of their own, and as far as things have progressed, everything has gone well. Great improvements are medi-

tated at this place, and Dr. M'Laughlin, who is the owner of the first establishment you meet in rising from the lower bed of the river, meditates the project of 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.

*We have already seen that this project is in course of consummation.

Between this town and the mission establishment above (a distance of forty miles), farms are sprinkled all along, and at twelve 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. This is a significant circumstance, and clearly indicates that it is our destiny to first alter and then reverse the political balance of every settlement in Oregon.

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 southeasterly 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 southwest direction from the point of 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 northwest 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 Linnian.

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 directions 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 headquarters 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 appetite, can crave.

Already a court-house has been erected, and a military organization formed, the object of which is, protection against any formidable attack from the border Indians, or a means of resistance to any attempted aggression on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company. It is, however, proper for me to say that there is not the slightest dread of either of these circumstances, as no hostile demonstration has been made, for several years, upon any of the white settlers in this region, and we have received evidence upon evidence, that the authorities at Vancouver are willing that we shall take the burden of civil and criminal jurisdiction from their shoulders, so far as regards the government of ourselves. It is, doubtless, their wisest policy. An American from the States grows up with the notion that he has a right to help govern himself, and he submits with a very bad grace to any exercise of sovereignty on the part of an Englishman. Indeed, he will not submit to it at all, and I have no kind of doubt that had the Hudson's Bay Company been unwise enough to truckle to the policy of their national government, and to insist, in despite of their own interests, on exercising legal control over us, the peaceful valleys of this region would, ere now, have been dyed with human blood.

McFarley and Dumberton both appear to appreciate the value of the field that is here thrown open to their ambition, and already these aspiring spirits have adopted a system of harranguing "The People," with a view of effecting new political arrangements. Each evidently thinks Nature intended him for a legislator, and constantly endeavors to lend Destiny some aid in the immense uphill nature of her task. As might be supposed, in a rivalry of this kind, the opponents represent opposite sets of principles and opinions. McFarley being a red hot, ultra radical, and Dumberton, representing the cold and calculating conservative. Each have managed already to secure a clique, and while McFarley is regarded by his faction as "a thunder-an-lightnin-smart-feller"; Dumberton is revered

by his "following" as "a *tremendyers* man." I am inclined to think McFarley will get the best of the struggle, if there is to be any best about it, for he advocates extending the elective franchise to the Indians, with whom he has already secured an extensive interest and admiration, by his expertness with the rifle and in spearing fish; while Dumberton confines himself to profound and ponderous speculations on the more abstruse propositions of political economy.

Whether Messrs. McFarley or Dumberton will have anything to do with it or not, I have no doubt, that the civil and criminal government of the little colonies of this territory will shortly be perfectly organized; and in a manner too that will render us entirely independent of the jurisdiction or assistance of the United States; in which case, inasmuch as she has neglected this region so long, she must look out, say some of the old settlers, that she does not lose it altogether.

There are a large number of Indians about this settlement and valley, who are 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 establishment, 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 the 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 Multnomah, 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 of the finest pieces of farming land to be found in any country. There is very little difference in the several portions of this val-

ley, 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 Toootutna, the Umpqua and the Klamet farther south.

CHAPTER X.

Passage Down the Columbia—Astoria—The Mouth of the Columbia—Lawyers in Oregon—Law Suit—Agitation of the Community—Luminous View of the Gentleman From Big Pigeon—The Philosophy of Soul Saving and Mode of Converting Savages in Oregon—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 afford a fine site for a settlement or a town. It is true it is covered with fine 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 sparsely and in spots. This feature increases as you proceed northward, and the land in the vicinity of Nisqually, 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, forming by its singular extension at this part, the portion which British navigators have called Gray's bay, for the purpose of making the world believe that Captain Gray did not discover the Columbia, but only entered *the bay into which it disembogues, to the distance of twenty or thirty 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 dangrous 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 northeast wind by giving navigators a lee shore of black overhanging rocks, heightens their danger not a little. The only place of refuge for vessel south of the Columbia on the Oregon coast is the mouth of the Umpqua, a river entering the Pacific in $42^{\circ} 51'$, where vessels draw-

*This is at variance with the account of Lieutenant Wilkes, who represents the Nisqually establishment as a very good one, and as furnishing, by its productiveness, supplies to other stations and to the Russians.

ing 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 mouth 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 steamboats for over fifty miles.

Before passing Oregon city, I will take this opportunity to mention a circumstance in relation to it, which is not a little amusing in its character, as well as significant of the progress of civilization and social refinement in this primeval wilderness. It appears that Doctor McLaughlin, and some of the missionaries of the settlement above, are rival claimants to a portion of it, and one of the reverend gentlemen connected with the mission, has given way to his litigious feelings and employed a Mr. Ricard, a lawyer (we have lawyers here, too, you see), to institute a suit against the doctor for the site in dispute, in the United States courts, with the hope of compelling an ejection of the trespasser. Mr. Ricard has commenced proceedings, by putting up a very large hand bill, giving an abstract of the title to the mission, and notifying the doctor and all other persons to quit the premises—warning those, moreover, who have not as yet encroached, by no means to do so, without obtaining special leave from the owners aforesaid. I know very little about the merits of the dispute, but I do know that this is the fruitful source of one-half of the debates of the settlements. It takes the place of foreign and domestic news of other portions of the world, and wonderful are the speculations that are projected on its score. It may be readily supposed that such a circumstance as this has not been overlooked by McFarley and Dumberton; on the contrary, both snapped at it with the avidity of hungry tigers. McFarley is very strenuous in favor of the claims of his own countrymen, and has made out a deduction in their favor, which is based, I believe, on the treaty of Utrecht, or some other equally satisfactory basis. He is very decided in his intention of sustaining them with his personal influence and talents, and has solemnly pledged himself even to the extent of fighting it out with the

rifle. Dumberton, on the other hand, though equally decided in favor of the mission claimants, avers that he cannot but regard the circumstance of this dispute with the highest degree of satisfaction. "An opportunity is now furnished us," says he, "through this insignificant controversy, to settle the title of the whole country, and to expel the governmental trespassers from every point and portion of its dominions." "This," he adds, "will bring war between the United Staes and Great Britain; Ireland will revolt; Canada will secede; the monarchs of the Indies will throw off their slavish yoke; Russia unrestrained will snap up Turkey as a famished mastiff would deal with a fresh kidney, and, in short, the whole world would be revolutionized, and the balances of power altered by the controversy in relation to this scrip of land." This opinion, backed as it is by the weight of Dumberton's enormous reputation for profound sagacity, has created no slight sensation in our little world. I believe Doctor McLaughlin has been made acquainted with these views of the gentleman from Big Pigeon, but whether their forcefulness created any serious alarm in his mind, or whatever other effect they have been attended with, I have not been able to ascertain.

So far as the philanthropic objects of the mission are concerned, I do not see that they can derive any direct or indirect benefit from the possession of the place they strive for; though I, for one, am decidedly in favor of their relinquishing no right of settlement they have acquired in any portion of the territory; but I here feel bound to say, as a portion of my general remarks upon this territory, that all the Missionaries whom I have seen within it have succeeded much better in making farms, raising stock, erecting mills, establishing stores, and improving their own worldly condition, than they have been in saving the souls of the Indians. I have, however, no right to criticise and condemn the peculiar system of these gentlemen, for they should certainly know more about the redemption of souls than I, who never worked at it. It, therefore, is not for me to say that the Indian will not more readily imbibe regenerating grace by digging the ground and carrying logs on his shoulders, than in wearing out his knee-pans in fruitless ejaculations.

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 lots 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.

The 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, etc., thrive here exceedingly well; while wild fruit and berries abound 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. Blueberries, 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 anyone 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 falls, and on the 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 Clinton 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 this 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 hillsides. 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 December, 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, but I have 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 are 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.

(To be continued)