

## DOCUMENTS

### *Diary of Dr. W. F. Tolmie*

#### *Introduction*

The following interesting document involves the writing of two of the outstanding pioneers of the Puget Sound region—Doctor William Fraser Tolmie and Edward Huggins.

Mr. Huggins is responsible for the document in its present form. His beautiful and careful penmanship has always been the delight of editors. In this case, his prefatory note, signed simply by the initial "H", tells how he got access to the original diary of Doctor Tolmie and why he chose that portion giving the first detailed description, in 1833, of the region about Fort Nisqually. Internal evidence shows that Mr. Huggins wrote the document in 1892.

The manuscript was received from Miss Bernice E. Newell of Santa Rosa, California. She gave no information as to when or how she obtained it. For a number of years she was a well known and successful newspaper writer in Tacoma. An appeal for information was therefore sent to Mr. W. P. Bonney of Tacoma, who is Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society and one of the contributing editors of the *Washington Historical Quarterly*. Fortunately, he knew about the document. Mr. Huggins was writing it for publication. He had shown it to some friends but got no encouragement as to its publication. During a visit at his home by Miss Newell and the late Frank B. Cole, the document was discussed and was loaned to Miss Newell for possible use in her newspaper work. Mr. Huggins had also planned to read the manuscript before the Washington State Historical Society, but did not do so. Mr. Bonney stated that it would be a good article for the *Washington Historical Quarterly*.

There are abundant reasons why the Diary of Dr. William Fraser Tolmie has been of great interest to historians. He was a ripe scholar and had remarkably extensive and important experiences. The original of his Journal has been carefully cherished by the family at Cloverdale, near Victoria, British Columbia. Portions of it has been copied and extracts have been published. It is believed that the portion here copied by Mr. Huggins has never before been put in type.

That indefatigable collector and historian, Hurbert Howe Ban-

croft, knew about the Tolmie Journal and used it. He speaks highly of Doctor Tolmie when he met him in Victoria in 1878, and may have secured a copy of at least a portion of the Journal at that time. In the bibliographies of his works on *British Columbia, Oregon, Northwest Coast* and *Washington, Idaho and Montana*, he mentions two Tolmie manuscripts "Puget Sound and Northwest Coast" and "Journal, 1833".

The late Clarence B. Bagley, writing "In the Beginning" as the final chapter of Ezra Meeker's book, *Pioneer Reminiscences of Puget Sound*, used extracts from the Tolmie Journal relating to the first approach to Mount Rainier. That portion was republished in my book, *Mount Rainier, a Record of Explorations* pages 6 to 12.

Dr. Tolmie was born at Inverness, Scotland, on February 3, 1812, and was educated at Glasgow. Joining the Hudson's Bay Company, he was transferred to Nisqually House in 1833. He was later transferred to other stations in the Northwest, returning to Nisqually as Chief Trader and advanced to the rank of Chief Factor in 1856. After the Fraser River gold rush had given greater importance to Victoria, he moved to that city in 1859 and retired from the Hudson's Bay Company service soon afterwards. He died in Victoria on December 8, 1888. His son, Simon Fraser Tolmie, is at present Premier of the Province of British Columbia.

When the old Oregon Country was divided by the treaty of 1846 fixing the boundary along the forty-ninth parallel, Hudson's Bay Company officers remained until the treaty terms were fulfilled. Mr. Huggins was the last Clerk at Nisqually until the United States paid the claims in 1868. He then became an American citizen and filed a homestead claim on the lands of the old fort. He retained the old papers which have since been acquired by the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Greater interest attaches to this present document when it is recalled that Doctor Tolmie and Mr. Huggins married sisters, the daughters of Chief Factor John Work. Mr. Bagley in the chapter cited above quotes a letter from Miss Jennie Tolmie in which she says her father was quite religious and at one time contemplated leaving the Hudson's Bay Company to become a missionary. She added: "I remember driving to Nisqually from Tacoma, many years ago, and stopping at a farm house where an old, white-haired man was leaning over the gate. When my aunt, Mrs. Edward Huggins, told him who we were, he said 'your father taught my wife the Lord's Prayer'."

The document is being here reproduced as Mr. Huggins wrote it. He headed it "Leaves from the diary of the late Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, Hudson's Bay Company service." It will be noted that he made a few eliminations and that occasionally he interpolated an explanatory remark, sometimes signing his initial. It has been shown above that he had an unquestioned right to do such editing if he chose. His relative by marriage had a place in his highest esteem.

EDMOND S. MEANY

### *The Document*

I have been kindly permitted by Mr. John Tolmie, Cloverdale, Victoria, B. C. to make a few extracts from the private Journal of the late Doctor W. F. Tolmie, his father, and have selected those pertaining to his first arrival in this country in 1833 and descriptive of his trip made that year across the portage to Nisqually house, afterwards Fort Nisqually, situated near the mouth of the Squally river, in Pierce County, and now the property of the writer.

Dr. Tolmie was well known to many of the old settlers now living in Pierce County, State of Washington, and for many years was in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's affairs at Nisqually, and afterwards at Victoria, B. C. and the portion of his journal here produced, gives his first impressions of the country with which he afterwards became so identified, and will, perhaps, be of some interest to many people now resident here, as it shows the condition of things then existing (nearly sixty years ago) vastly different from that of today. At that time, the Indians were quite numerous, and but little redeemed from a state of savagery, and the early comers underwent great hardships, and incurred dangers in their efforts to establish trade with them. Indeed, only about five years prior to the advent of Dr. Tolmie, a party of Hudson's Bay Coy's servants, six or seven in number, headed by an officer named McKenzie were murdered by the Indians of the Clallam or Scadget tribes as the writer is led to suppose.

The Doctor engaged with the Hudson's Bay Company as Surgeon, and in October 1832, sailed from England, in the Company's barque "Ganymede". At the risk of being considered prolix the writer has copied the Doctor's journal almost verbatim, and has endeavored to confine himself to that which refers to the portion of the country about Fort's Vancouver and Nisqually.—H.

*Doctor Tolmie's Diary*

Tuesday April 30th 1833. Off Cape Disappointment. Up at 8 a. m. and on going on deck was informed that land had been visible for two hours, but frequently obscured by the haze. In a few minutes after the summit of the hills appeared, dimly seen, distant about 40 miles. At 9 it becoming clearer the land was distinctly seen on either side, presenting a series of low undulating hills alternating with flats, and the whole supported a luxuriant growth of tall trees. It seemed as if we were entering a firth, or estuary. Large flocks of wild ducks, closely agminated, flying overhead, smaller ones skinning the surface of the foaming billows, and a prodigious number of other birds, almost darkening the air ahead, actively engaged in the pursuit of prey, large masses of seaweed, abundantly scattered about, perhaps affording them a supply of crustaceous and molluscos animals. Our position being uncertain, lay to, and dropped the deep sea lead, which reached a sandy bottom 25 fathoms deep. The mate then declared his opinion that we were to Northward of the Cape, and the Captain acquiescing, wove the ship and steered S. W. Went below at 10 and came on deck again at 1 a.m. (May 1st) Cape Disappointment had just been recognized a quarter of an hour before bearing N. by E. and the Captain tacked and steered for it, having been mistaken in the supposition that we were to the Northward of it. Examined the chart executed by the late Captain Simpson, of the entrance to the Columbia river, and at 1:30 went up to the foretopsail Yard, where the mate pointed out the different localities. Land was perceptible from N. to S. E. and Cape Disappointment, for which we steered, bore down about 12 miles distant. It is a bluff, wooded promontory and the contiguous land of same character (that of a rolling country) stretches away to N. or N. by W. beyond which the sea again appears and the coast receding to form Bakers Bay to the Eastward of the Cape, the land from N. to N.N.E. has an insulated appearance, which is heightened by your perceiving a higher range of hills immediately behind the cape, continuous with those extending towards S.E. Chenooke point bearing about N.E. by E. was distinguished by a triangular Yellow patch on an adjoining hill which the gloomy aspect of the surrounding forest, made conspicuous. Here the line of coast was again broken, and point Adams was seen bearing about E. low, flat and clad with trees, becoming gradually elevated until it terminated in a line of wooded hills which the eye could follow as far as the S. E. point. The summit of the hills did not jut out into sharp conical peaks as at Oahu, but

were smooth and rounded. From the topsail yard could see the N.&S. breakers rising impetuously over the bar, and when we were within about three miles of it, could perceive them from the deck. At 2, the Captain thought it prudent to stand out to sea, and it was fortunate, as the atmosphere soon after became more dense, the breeze stronger, and the perilous run would have been made under very unfavorable circumstances. Have since 2 been steering S. W. under foresail and double reefed topsails. In entering, the chief danger consists in passing between the Cape and the S. Spit. a narrow point which runs off from the Middle grounds, which name is applied to this part of the bar and water. The channel is narrow, and the depth of water only four fathoms. In passing between the Middle ground and Chenook point, you are between Scylla and Charybdis, having on the left Chenook shore, and on the right the North Spit to alarm you.

May 1st. Fort George 6 P. M. Up at 7 and going on deck found that the "Ganymede" was making for the Cape with a favorable breeze from S. or S. E. Morning, beautiful, and ahead could see the north breakers sparkling in the sunshine and overspread with a thin vapor. We were about the same distance from the Cape as when we stood out yesterday, and distinctly viewed the hills interior, on which the lazy mists of night were still lagging, especially in the clefts or ravines. The Captain once or twice hesitated, from the furious breaking of the sea over the bar, but a smooth surface presented by the channel at other times, re-inspired him with courage, and we stood in and passed within one hundred and fifty yards of the Cape at 8:30 A.M. and at 9 A.M. were sailing across Bakers Bay in safety. In entering could see land to a considerable distance Northward of the Cape peninsular, which was flat and wooded. The Cape is a steep, precipitous crag and about two hundred feet high, its sides grassy and scrubby, and summit crested with pines. The coast for near a mile to the north is of a similar description. Hills pineclad on Summits with Sides bulging out into grassy knolls, or mounds and intersected with small ravines which were adorned with richer verdure. In Bakers Bay the water was smooth as glass, bordered by a sandy beach, and all around, on its margin strewed with driftwood, the rising grounds covered with pine. This spot appeared to me singularly beautiful, and from it I could view the dangerous breakers we had just passed, with great complacency and thankfulness to Providence. At 10 o'clock we were boarded by a party of Chenooks, off Point Ellice,

one of whom named "George" offered himself as pilot. They were treated with biscuit and molasses and a glass of rum. At 11 Mr. Fisk, the person in charge of Fort George arrived bringing the intelligence that Mr. Furlingson had set out in the "Larna" on the 12th Ulto to form a new settlement in the Russian territory to Northward of Nasse, that Dr. McLaughlin was at Fort Vancouver with but very few assistants, that Mr. Douglas had accompanied the hunting brigade to New Caledonia and is expected to return with them in June. Fort George, seen from off point Ellice, where the "Ganymede" lay at anchor, did not much resemble its namesake in Scotland, a few cottages perched on a green knoll close to beach, with a small, triangular space behind cleared, except the stumps, and all around it a trackless forest. After dinner set out in Fisks canoe for Fort George, distance 6 miles, rather rough and wet passage. The Fort is built on a rising ground at the head of a small creek, or bay, along the margin of which there are about half a dozen miserable looking wooden huts, inhabited by Indians, about a gunshot from this are the same number of comfortable looking cottages, which constitute Fort George. On the eminence Goats were frisking about and browsing on rich but short Clover Grass, and the steep face was laid out in cultivable lands. This is the original site of Fort George. We were shown a Sea Otter and Beaver skin by Fisk. There are four Companys servants, here a Canadian Fisk, an orkneyman and two Kanakas. At 7 our Canoe was ready and we embarked. It was manned by five Indians a Kanaka and the Orkneyman above mentioned, John Moar from Stromness as interpreter and guide, or commander of the crew.

May 2nd. Slept soundly and startled out of a pleasant dream at 4:30 this morning by John's shouting to arouse the Indians. Morning fine. On the densely wooded banks of opposite side the mists are still hanging in graceful wreaths, and in heavy strata on the mountains in the background. Saw several seals in first setting out, their black heads bobbing up and down resembled small buoys. The scenery along the banks has been of a monotonous character, a dense and unbroken forest of pines covers them and the surrounding hills. . . . 10 A.M. arrived at Cathlamet village four huts in a line and two others detached, placed at the base of a pine clad ridge constituted the hamlet. Some Indians were hewing wood, others at work in Canoes, but the greatest number were squatted in front of the lodges. They had six fine salmon in a canoe, but superstitiously refused to sell any, because they were

the first caught this season, and it is their firm belief that if the first caught salmon are not roasted in a particular manner, the fish will desert the river. Tantalizing as it was, had to proceed without any... Passed a canoe fastened to the trunk of a tree containing the ashes of a Chenook. The Indians call these Sepulchres "Mem-loos elihe." The ground or place of the dead... Evening surpassingly beautiful, the blue concave is cloudless and lit up with the starry hosts. Venus has just sunk behind the western bank. Ursa Major is nearly on the Meridian and the "pale empress of night" is riding in full orbit majesty about a demiquadrant above horizon, and sheds her mellow beams on the mighty stream here shut in by its banks, so as to appear like a broad, unruffled lake.

May 3 ... 8:30 A.M. arrived at Tawallish a small lodge, near to which Kiesno, the highest chief on river and his party are encamped. The men are mostly clothed with blue capotes, or great coats with a hood, are armed with knives, and their well polished muskets are ranged round a tree in military regularity - in front of hamlet men, squaws and children are squated - "Kiesno" intends proceeding to the Fort today ... overtaken and passed by two Canoes from Tawallitch, the foreheads of all the inmates are flattened and their faces bedaubed with a pigment of an ugly brownish red color. On a high bluff and also on a small rocky islet the habitation of the dead are very numerous. The Chenooks seem to choose places the most difficult of access to deposit the remains of their defunct friends. The islet is called Coffin Isle ... 3 P.M. have been coasting along Deer Island since 1:30. Two parties of Indians are encamped here fishing sturgeon. Saw one moored to a Canoe at least fifteen feet long, they would not trade any to us ... now at the mouth of a river (Cowlitzk) which flows into the Columbia in a S.W. by S. direction. The chief Kiesno lives on its banks and I now see his canoe a good way up paddling homewards. "Mac-kay," a clerk retired from the Coy's service has settled six miles up. River nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile broad at mouth. Hills on left bank becoming higher, and in the distance eastward, a sugarloaf mountain seen last night to great advantage (St. Helens) now rises in immaculate whiteness, and buries its acutely pointed summit in the clouds. Several flocks of geese seen flying to North. A thin stratum of gray cloud veils the heavens, the water is smooth as a mirror, and with equal fidelity reflects its leafy banks...

May 4th Fort Vancouver. At 3 A.M. reached our destined

port, after nearly an eight months pilgrimage (The "Ganymede" called at the Sandwich Islands thus making the passage eight instead of the usual five or six months.) Knocked at the Fort gate which, after some delay was opened by the gardner, whom I at once dicovered to be a Celt. Our approach being announced to Govr. McLaughlin, he appeared on the staircase of common hall and welcomed us with a cordial shake of the hand. Sat down in dining hall, and while refreshments were being served, communicated the political intelligence of Europe to Mr. McL. who is an able politician. Messrs. Cowie and Allan, gentlemen stationed at the Fort and Captain Duncan, commanding the schooner "Vancouver," now appeared, and a lively conversation was kept up 'till about 6 when we betook ourselves to eating with right good will, having fasted since yesterday at 11. Our fare was excellent, consisting of superb salmon, fresh butter and bread, tea, rich milk and mealy potatoes. Having done ample justice to the good things, chatted with the Doctor as he is called 'till about seven and then visited the garden. Young apple trees are rich in blossom and extensive beds sowed with culinary vegetables are laid out in nice order and under a long range of frames melons are sown... afternoon attended Episcopalian morning service, read by the Gov'r in dining hall... The square was now occupied with upwards of 100 horses, and canadians were busy lassoing some for use - at 12 got all mounted and the Governor; Cowie and myself, besides a large cavalcade of Canadians and boys set out for Vancouver plain and after half an hours dangerous scrambling through brush, break and numerous stumps, entered plain which extends for about fifteen miles down river, and is generally a mile in breadth. Its surface is deversified with clumps of trees and lakes of water, and is profusely bedecked with beautiful flowers, amongst which noticed particularly a large species of lupin; a fine orchideous looking plant called Kamass, the root of which is baked underground and eaten by the Indians. A great variety of others were seen, which did not attract so much attention. Rich, luxuriant grass afforded abundant pasturage for about 400 head of Cattle. We reached a lake about 4 or 5 miles in circumference, boarded by trees in full foliage - on its shores flocks of wild ducks feeding, and swallows in thousands skimming its surface. Passed several smaller lochs in returning and met a cavalcade of Canadians scampering along. The scene was now very animating. There were the Canadians, mostly dressed in blue capots, glazed hats, with a red military belt around waist, and having their coal black hair



dangling in profusion about their shoulders - wild, picturesque looking figures, and their horses rougher and more shaggy than themselves. All around were herds of beautiful cattle, cropping the rich herbage, or listlessly lolling under trees. Horses, Goats and Swine seen in every direction, attending to the cravings of nature, on the lochs wild ducks abundant, and now and then the solitary Heron could be seen stading motionless in shallow water watching the movements of the devoted Minnows. Wood Pigeons startled from a clump of trees in one large covey... Rode out with the Governor and Mr. Cowie to see the farm, which extends along bank of river to East of Fort and there saw several large fields of Wheat, Pease and Barley, with rich and extensive pastoral Meadows. Heard a loud howling and approaching found a party from 30 to 40, Indians, men & women, performing their devotions. They formed a circle two deep, and went round and round, moving their hands and exerting themselves violently, simultaneously repeating a monotonous channt loudly. Two men were within the circle and kept moving rapidly from side to side, making the same motion of arms. They were, I am told the directors or managers of the ceremony. Having continued this exercise for several minutes after we beheld them, becoming more and more vehement and excited, they suddenly dropped on their knees, and uttered a short prayer, and having rested a short time, resumed the circular motion. During the ceremony, so intent were they, that not an eye was once turned towards us, although we stood within a few yards. In an encampment close by, several Indians were squatted round the fires. The dwellings formed of poles covered with skins, looked very wretched. I felt a sensation of awe come over me when they knelt and prayed. The Governor says that they have imitated Europeans in observing the seventh as a day of rest...

May 6th. Received intimation this morning of the death of a Canadian named Plant and at 6:30 P.M. attended his funeral, the procession made up by the Govr. Mr. Cowie and myself, and about 25 servants, Europeans, Canadians and Sandwich Islanders. Set out from Plant's house the Coffin unpainted, slung on pieces of Canvass, and thus borne by four men. Passing through a pretty grove of young Oaks and other trees, we arrived at burial ground which is situated about a gunshot to North of Fort, in a fertile upland meadow, greatly beautified by wild flowers and trees in flowers. The behaviour of the servants was decorous and befitting the solemn occasion. The funeral service was read by the Governor.

The character of the deceased was not such as to make his death a matter of vivid regret to his fellows. He had been a noted bruiser, and distinguished for a quarrelsome disposition, but having the redeeming quality of unflinching courage, and hence a valuable attendant in moments of danger...

In the Evening had some conversation with the Governor on farming. Wheat here yields a return of 15 fold; barley from 40 to 50. Maize requires the richest soil, barley next, then Wheat and lastly Oats or Pease.

May 8th... At 6 A.M. G. and I walked along farm to the plateau by the border of wood, now admiring the rich groves of lupin seen amidst the trees mixing with handsome columbines, sunflowers and a great variety of other herbaceous plants in flower. On the borders of wood there were some enchanting spots and my heart bounded with delight and enthusiasm as I surveyed them. Thin, grey clouds mellowed without much obscuring the rays of the departing sun, and this lent an air of softness to the face of nature, and there being scarcely any wind, the glimpses of the magnificent Columbia obtained through interruptions to the belt of wood which skirts its Northern shore, showed it to flow placidly and majestically along. Its southern shore green trees extended in a narrow strip along lowlands, but behind a range of undulating hills, perhaps five hundred feet high stretched East and West, and in the background the colossal Mount Hood - today much freed of his gelid investment, reared his lofty summit above the clouds. The tout ensemble was the finest combination of beauty and grandeur I have ever beheld... Arrived at Fort just in time for tea and met a Mr. MacDonald who has just returned from an exploring expedition to the Willamit River and he gives a very interesting account of the country. Fertile and extensive plains abounding, and excellent oak there invite the husbandman, traces of Coal exist, and he has brought specimen of lime stone rock. In one part salt springs are numerous, and are much frequented by deer. More Salmon are caught there than in other parts in this neighborhood, and from there our supply has derived...

May 9th. Have been informed by the Governor that I am to be dispatched Northward in the "Vancouver," which is to set out on a trading voyage along the coast in a few days. I shall be probably left with Mr. Finlayson at the new Fort on Millbank Sound, Which is to supplant Fort Simpson. The situation of settlement is pointed out as being on an island which forms the South bank of North

branch of Salmon river at the entrance to Sound, about Lat. 51.30 N. Long. 127 W. The projected establishment to N. is in lat 57° long. 132° the site pointed out is on a narrow channel in the Sitca archipelago, or rather the Prince of Wales's which runs between Duke of Yorks land and some other nameless islands to N. about 1½ miles broad, and the spot proposed is on its Eastern or Mainland shore. It will not interfere with the Russians, and they have no posts to S. of Norfolk sound. I would have preferred remaining longer here but, il nimporte, as we are to coast a great part of way and touch at several Forts and stations in Pugets Sound and the Gulf of Georgia, the voyage, I anticipate will be agreeable. In the North must be constantly armed to the teeth, as the Indians are savage and dangerous... After tea were visited in our domicile by Mr. Mackay the farmer in Willamette, who returned thence with McDonald yesterday. He has traversed the country West of the Rocky Mountains in all directions. The Snake party of trappers, of which so much was heard, and so little learn't on board the "Ganymede" proceed to the territory around Lewis's or the great Snake river and its northern branch, and sometimes enter the northern parts of Mexico. In the Snake country they are much annoyed by the Blackfeet Indians from the other side, and sharp skirmishes often occur. Their mode of travelling is on horseback with beaver traps slung to the saddle, and they stop at all places where beaver are found until they have exhausted the spot, except when molested by the Indians. They live on Buffalo beef. Here several American parties have been massacred by the Indians, but the Companys people have always escaped, at the worst with the loss of a few lives. New Calidonia is the resort of another large party, and their mode of travelling and hunting is similar, only they have not so much to apprehend from the Indians. This country last season produced ten thousand Beaver skins, which were sold in London at twenty five shillings (six dollars) per pound. There are no Buffalo, and but few deer in this country (New Caledonia) and fish is the support of the hunters. No hunting parties are as yet dispatched from Fort Simpson. Mackay has had many encounters with Bear, and the best way - he says, when a wounded bear rushes at you, is to stand and - if possible, re-load, and when he comes near, if your gun is unloaded, look at him steadily, and he will not attack, but raised on his hind legs, will continue to return your gaze, until tired of his position, when he takes himself quietly off. (The writer, when a young man, was one day strolling alone

in the vicinity of Fort Nisqually, and unarmed, when a large Black Bear pushed through the brush and stood within thirty feet of him, in the trail. Both stood still and gazed steadfastly into each others eyes, and I am sure the aspect of the Bear was the bravest of the two, but after looking at each other, for what seemed to him to be a long time, Bruin turned and walked slowly away, and so did the writer, towards the Fort, and he certainly made much better time than did the Bear. The animal did not rise on his hind legs tho' E.H.)...

May 10th. Up at 7 and wrote part of yesterdays log before breakfast, being too much fatigued last night to go on with it. Looked out several articles of clothing in the store, as I must lay in stock for a year, in case I may be detained in the North. At all the outposts goods are advanced in price  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per Ct. for the Indian Trade, as every servant of the Company is expected to supply himself from headquarters, once a year. After dinner, decided on getting a rifle here and got Mackay to choose one for me. The rifle cost one hundred and fifty shillings (about thirty-seven dollars) it has a flint lock, platina touch hole & twist barrel about four feet long and weighs  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. only... After tea walked for an hour with Macdonald up and down Avenue from river to Fort gate. I giving him Invernesshire news, and receiving in return as introduced the subject, useful information regarding this country. Mac is a native of Abertarff and commenced his career under Lord Selkirk, for whom he enlisted about forty Highlanders for the Red River settlement in 1806. This party rendezvoused at Inverness, and containing sons of Glengarry's tenants, whom he had enrolled as volunteers, he therefore dispatched a posse of men to Inverness to apprehend the deserters, but Mac, apprised of their approach, marched his band to the hills, and proceeding during the night along by the braes of Culloden to Croy, came down to the sea at Fort George and embarked his men in a small schooner for Kirkwall, where Lord Selkirk was with the Bay ships. Macedermot of Midmills was the Coy's agent at Inverness. The North West Company had settlements all through New Caledonia and the Snake Country, but their only post along the coast was Fort George. The union of the H.B. and N.W. Coy's took place in 1820. Lord Selkirk, besides his stock in the Company had, for his services received an interest in the business, which now yielded his family ten thousand pounds annually...

May 12th. After breakfast I saw a party of Indians and a

Canadian carrying a box passing along to Government house, and they proved to be the bearers of letters from York Factory, which were transmitted from Post to Post, and came thither from Walla Walla being five or six months earlier than the usual period that the letters are received. Some parties had been dispatched from York to the Saskatchewan during winter, and the opportunity of forwarding the Columbia letters by them embraced. It would be very gratifying to those on this side if the same thing could be done annually, but it has only occurred once before. Between Fort Colville and the Boat Encampment, the Posts nearest the Mountains, on either side, and 300 miles distance from each other, travelling for one or two individuals is almost impracticable, and the Society of Indians in that country makes it precarious and difficult to obtain an escort. This Mr. Cowie says form the chief obstacle to the sending and express purposely with the letters... on the brow of the plateau some figures in light dresses were straggling, but whether Indians or Canadians could not discern. Having reached to near the extremity of the farm, entered the forest and visited the Indian encampment, at which the religious ceremony's were performed last Sunday. Today the lodges were crowded with human beings of all sexes and sizes, squatted closely round the fires which burnt in the middle. Notwithstanding their filthy bodies, the inmates looked fresh and healthy. Outside were several Wolf dogs who retreated, growling at our approach. Shook hands with a few of the principal men, and by signs they gave us to understand on enquiry that about sunset the devotional ceremonies would commence. The camp seemed well supplied with food, for the central poles of wigwam were hung with large pieces of salmon, drying in the smoke. What externally appeared as several dwellings, within was one apartment, and contained at least fifty individuals. Apart from it was a smaller hut, in which an old wrinkled beldame, displaying her personal charms without regard to decency, seemed to preside. The women were all in a state of nudity, except having the corner of a blanket around loins... During our ride the Doctor unfolded to G. and me his views regarding the breeding of Cattle here. He thinks that when the trade of Furs is dying out, which at no very distant day must happen, the servants of company may turn their attention to the rearing of cattle, for the sake of the hides and tallow, in which he says, business could be carried on to a greater amount than that of the Furs collected West of the Rocky Mountains. Furs are already becoming scarce, and the present supply is obtained by an almost exterminating system of hunting. In 1792 the

North West Company sent more furs from a comparatively small space of country than is now sent to Britain from all the H.B. Co's country and the Government posts in Canada...

May 17th. Macdonald has proposed that I should accompany him by land to Nisqually on Pugets Sound where he is to take charge of a Fort the Company is establishing there. The "Vancouver" is to go round with goods, and I join her there, and proceed in her to the Northward. I cordially agreed to accompany Mac, and having obtained the Doctors sanction, set about making the necessary arrangements. We are to ascend Cowlitz River to its source, proceed thence on horseback to the bottom on Pugets Sound, and holding afterwards a Northern course, to arrive by land at Nisqually. Our journey will probably occupy eight or ten days. I shall take fowling piece, pistols and "Skenedher" (dagger on knife).

May 18th. Up at 7 A.M. Put arms in order. Gave Dr. McLoughlin the Acacia seeds got at Oahu. At 11:30 bade adieu to all in Fort and followed Mr. MacD. to strand, where our canoe was lying. The day was beautiful, sky cloudless, the majestic Columbia rolling smoothly along, and its wooded and winding banks rejoicing in the noonday sun. The face of nature wore a most engaging aspect and I could not help feeling regret at leaving such a beautiful spot, and from the residents in which, particularly the Governor, I have met with much kindness. Shook hands with G. waved a farewell to the Captn. and mate of the "Ganymede," and embarked in a comfortable canoe with McD. our crew consisted of four Kanakas, stout fellows, who paddled lustily and soon put us out of sight of shipping... Had some fine glimpses of Mount St. Helens, its summit is conical, and sides more rounded than those of Mt. Hood. It is invested with a pure sheet of snow, unspotted either by rocks or trees, and as seen in relief against the deep azure sky, immediately over a gloomy ridge of pine trees in the foreground, produced a fine effect... Mr. McDonald pointed out to me an Indian who, five weeks ago, having quarreled with a person living in the same lodge, which we today saw on the right bank of Columbia, stole on him as he lay in front of his dwelling and shot him dead - the surrounding tribes assembled to the number of 4 or 500, and the murderer, according to their custom satisfied all who claimed kindred with the deceased, with presents, and thus expended all his substance, which was considerable. When spoken to by Mac soon after the deed, he expressed no contrition but said "The sun was

high when I killed him, it was not done in the dark. I have paid the price of his blood, and what more could I do." He now seems as cheerful and devoid of care as his fellows... The Cattle accompanying the party are being driven along the trail, parallel with the river...

May 19th. Saw "Vancouver" about two miles below under full sail, and boarded her at 2 P.M. remained on board for short time. The schooner was making short tacks across river, with a smart northerly breeze. Ran close up to Coffin Island, in one of these tacks. Took leave of Ryan who has obtained the command, Duncan having taken his place in the "Ganymede," being desirous of going home. Paddled across to right bank and entered Jolifie river on its lower bank, and just opposite Coffin Island is the site of an Indian village, which a few years ago, contained about three hundred inhabitants, but at present only its superior verdure distinguished the spot from the surrounding country. Intermittent Fever, which has almost depopulated Columbia river of its aborigines, here committed its fullest ravages and nearly exterminated the villagers, the few survivors deserting a spot where the pestilence seemed most terribly to wreck its vengeance...

22nd. Entered the Cowlitz, a half starved Wolf dog followed us from the huts, howling piteously to be taken on board, one of the men, a tall athletic Kanaka, landed with a rope, as I thought to secure the dog, and a ponderous ax in his right hand, with a grin of savage delight he enticed the dog towards him, and then directed a tremendous blow at the poor miserable, which however it nimbly eluded and escaped. If the animal had been secured its carcasse would have provided a feast for the tawny crew... We now had a long conference with Indians in four canoes just as we had passed the forks of river, and learn't that near Nisqually, seven persons had lately been murdered in an affray... At 5:30 Arrived at Coal bed and set the men to work with pickaxe and shovel. The Coal did not seem rich, but more of a slaty or carboligneous nature... embarked at 11 having laid aside a quantity of coal to be carried to Fort Vancouver by returning Canoe. The river now is a continuous rapid, and it was only by the most strenuous efforts that the canoe could be urged on. On one occasion we were obliged to disembark, and tow up with ropes, again the channel being obstructed with trunks and branches of trees, I disembarked. Mac continued poling and the men were straining every nerve to get the canoe past the embarras, where there was an imminent risk of its being

swung round by the current and dashed to pieces broadside against the highest of the colossal trees which lay across the stream, their effort being only sufficient to keep canoe in its position, without moving it upwards in the least. Mac jumped out to assist, and I who as yet stood spectator from one of the trunks forming embarras, followed his example by leaping off the trunk nearest to stern of canoe, about six feet from it, but met with unexpected difficulty, being hurried down against embarras unable to obtain footing, in 3 or 4 feet of water, by swimming stoutly, at length caught hold of Canoe by stern, planted feet firmly on the bottom and lent my strength to push canoe upwards, which by our united efforts was effected, and we got into comparatively smooth water, being thoroughly soaked except head and shoulders assisted canoe-men in poling and paddling to keep up the animal heat. No game met with, but our stock will yet bear another days attack...

May 24th. Embarked at 6:30 A.M. and reached the second Coal mine about 9 a distance of about 2 miles from encampment. Called at lodge occupied by a party of Indians. The inmates with starvation depicted on their countenances were huddled around a puny fire, placed in the middle of apartment and stretched on mats lay an emaciated being, seemingly the father of the family, whose wan an enfeebled frame seemed soon destined to occupy its long resting place, a Canoe in some isolated and sequestered spot. Having landed explored bank for some extent around Coal...

At 5. arrived at a small inhabited village (Cowlitz landing) where the portage commences. On arrival, Mac set out with an Indian as guide to a village, two miles further on to engage horses for our journey. Visited by several women who brought some kamass, and then arranging themselves around the fire, squatted on their hips in Indian file, commenced a war of extermination against creeping things in each others heads; each, when she made a prize, adroitly placing it on the tip of her tongue, and then with the incisors giving the *Coup de grace*. Ordered the filthy wretches to depart several times, but the luxury of enjoying a good fire, without the previous exertion of preparing it was too great a temptation to be overcome by words. While cleaning Gun, two ugly rascals with bare knives in their hands approached very near me, once or twice jostling each other, however, having a pistol in my pocket, which the taller one had seen me loading, did not dread an attack, altho sufficiently alarmed to tell them through "Rorie" to keep at a more respectful distance... When Mac returned, had tea,



during which we chatted with some Indians loitering about the fire, and showed them the coal of which they said there was more up the river. The women now returned asking payment for the kamass...

May 25th. Up at 6 ... Mac has decided on taking the canoe-men on to Nisqually, if the cattle party do not return tonight, and wrote the Gov'r to this effect... Set out in a canoe to search for coal along the banks upwards. Our bark was small and crazy, and the Indians by no means enthusiastic in the undertaking, so, after being once nearly upset disembarked, and climbing the high and rugged bank arrived at a beautiful prairie (Cowlitz Prairie) extending N.E. and S.W. at least 4 or 5 miles, nearly a mile broad and very level for two thirds of its breadth, the brow of a gently sloping and winding elevation appearing throughout whole extent, as the face, or rather flank of the remaining and western third. Bearing East the pyramidal St. Helens appeared in immaculate whiteness piercing the fleecing clouds, a long range of snow dappled summits stretching away to Northward, and a lower series of wooded summits to S'ward. The foreground occupied with groups of pine clad hills, and the tops of the highest cedars and Pines rising out of the deep valley in which the rapid Cowlitz flowed. To W.ward the tops of an unbroken forest half, or more concealed by the winding flank of upper third of prairie, formed the horizon but more to N.ward distant and wooded hills arose joining the snowy peaks which extend from the base of the majestic St. Helens. Rounded and undulating summits enveloped in thin azure vapors filled up the space to southward. The soil of prairie seemed very fertile. It was covered with a luxuriant, but not rank grass, and adorned with a much greater variety of flowers, than either Cattlepootle or Jolie plains, and much fewer trees, only single rows in some spots. Found ripe strawberries on a sunny brae with an eastern exposure... Walked along a well beaten track and saw another snowy mountain of noble and majestic appearance, bearing N.East, and at its base one or two snow capped peaks...

May 26th. Slept 'till the sun was high above the trees on eastern bank. At daybreak Thikané, an Indian departed to look for Cattle party, and after breakfast McDonald followed. In the afternoon, a man from Nisqually arrived on horseback on his way to Fort Vancr. but he tarried with us until Macs return, and has since been added to our party. Mac returned about 4 having fallen in with Cattle party about a mile up, and with much persuasion, succeeded in getting cattle across. He was followed by several Canadians

and Indians on horseback, and after eating some boiled pease, we struck tent, loaded the packsaddles and traversing wood above encampment, arrived shortly before sunset at the resting place of Cattle on the S. Western border of Prairie, where a cheerful fire blazed, much to the gratification of a group of lazy Indians squatted around it. The prairie now seemed encircled with trees, which rose a bristling serrated wall around. St. Helens, bearing East, towered high in unclouded magnificence, and the other mountain (Rainier or "Tacoma") called by the Indians, "Pus-ke-youse" bore E. N. E. at summit, divided into two rounded eminences, with a narrow intervening hollow. Its form suggested the vulgar comparison with that of Dumberton Rock. The higher and easterly eminence has a black, precipitous face, while the remainder is invested in snow. The ascent seems most practicable from S. E. by which this precipice is avoided. The evening is serene and beautiful, and the monarch of day threw his departing radiance over the scene. It is now about 10 P. M. and we are both writing in tent. Mac to the Gov'r by the Owhyhes who depart in the Canoe tomorrow. The light hearted Canadians are chatting cheerfully around fire, reciting their adventures, and the guttural intonations in Chinook show that the Indians have not yet departed. We are now four or five days journey from Nisqually and the roads are reported good, but if we do not find the "Vancouver" there, shall be on short commons, as the men there have no provisions, and to depend entirely upon the hunters for an adequate supply, is a very risky business...

May 27th. Up at 6 mounted and set out at 7. disturbed two deer as we ascended the gentle slop forming the Eastern boundary of upper prairie. Our course lay through rich and level praries and prairions or smaller plains, separated from each other by belts of wood from 100 paces to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide, through which the road, or trail was execrable, knee up in water and mud, or laid out in ridges or deep furrows formed by large roots extending across, or obstructed with trunks of trees of large dimensions, and at the same overrarched with low branches, so that while the horse sprang over the obstacle, were between the devil and the deep sea, and to avoid being entangled in the branches above, had to cling to the horses neck... We were attended by a cavalcade of 4 Indians attired in leather tights and moccasins, bearing each his musket. About 4 arrived at first stage of portage about 20 miles from Cowlitz and encamped in a long narrow prairie of different elevations marked

by winding slopes. A few Indian hovels were scattered along the margin of a large stream, and in the hollow were about 12 horses feeding. This spot reminded Mac and me of some of the romantic glens of Albyn...

May 28th. Encamped on Grand Prairie. Up in the grey of morning and breakfasted on boiled Pease and started about 8 on foot... Crossed two lower ridges, occasionally meeting with new plants... Passed several beautiful prairies, the two latter of which have been of a more sandy soil. Got to encampment about 2... walked out in the evening and proceeded to a round eminence, a fairy knoll at N.W. side, which perhaps was formerly an island in the lake, which from its sandy soil and profusion of round stones, or boulders on the surface, I suppose to have occupied plain. The evening was serene and clear, and the king of day setting behind a waning ridge of pine clad hills, relieved the sombre aspect of the surrounding forest. The Chechalis river, a rough broken stream bordered plain on S.West and appeared in a few spots through openings in its wood fence banks... Visited in the evening by several Chiefs, the most important of which was dressed in a blanket Capot, blue Vest and trousers a foot too long, English, tall hat and Blucher boots. He was a little old man, very forward and intrusive, wishing to invade the precincts of our tent, hitherto kept sacred from the louse disseminating presence of an Indian, he succeeded however in favoring Mac with a colony of fleas, who kept him in purgatory all night. The old fellow was going to a meeting of his allies for the purpose of deliberating on the propriety of accepting two slaves as a peace offering from the Northern tribes, for the murder of two of his kinfolk...

May 29th. Up early and after tedious delay in catching horses and loading we, (Mac & self) started on foot and walked in the Grand Prairie, along its N.E. border for some miles. Met a party of Indians regaling on a deer killed by a young indian whom Mac supplied with ammunition last night, the bloody members, head &c were hung to the youths saddle who rode behind us. Rested about 2 to lunch. The prairie was dry and sandy and raised into regular rows of low, circular mounds or hummocks for an extent of at least two miles. Crossed a steep hill and much incommoded by the heat and glare of the Sun. Prairies dry and sandy or gravelly, but as Mac observed admirably adapted for Sheep...

May 30th. Arrived at Nisqually shortly before noon. Forded the Nisqually about 3 miles from its mouth, where it is about the

breadth of the Severn at Bonhill, but rapid and broken. Passed some pretty green hills sprinkled with young Oaks and winding away to Westward, continued along the same plain which extended still as far as the eye could reach to Northward and descending a steep bank arrived at the proposed site of Nisqually Fort on a low flat about 50 paces broad, on the shores of Puget's Sound. The most conspicuous object was a store half finished, next a rude hut of cedar boards, lastly a number of Indian lodges constructed of mats hung on poles in a shape somewhat, of a cartshed. We were welcomed by a motley group of Canadians, Owyhees and Indians, and parties of the latter were squatted around fires roasting mussels. Entered hut and deposited accoutrements, while Mac, conversed with the servants. Bathed in the sound, which was as smooth as crystal and bordered by a sloping beach of shingle, behind which a steep wooded bank arises and approaches, in some spots very near the high water mark. Went up to prairie with Mac and saw the proposed site of Fort and Farm. The Fort is to be erected along the bank of a streamlet [the Seguallitchew Creek] which in its devious course through plain presents points well adapted for Millsites, and the most fertile spots in the prairie are to be ploughed for a crop of Potatoes and Pease this season. Macdonald is undecided whether to erect the store houses at the mouth of the streamlet or 150 yards to Southward, where one is already nearly completed. If the former site be chosen, the whole establishment would be on the North bank of stream, and therefore more compact, but it would be necessary to cut a platform, or plane from the bank, large enough for the site of stores, and the hill behind is more steep than to south, however there is the advantage that Corn and Saw Mills could be placed at 30 or 40 yards distance from the stores, and then only a thrashing mill would be necessary up at the farm which is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile up the stream. These are Macs projects, but as he is to remove to another post this summer, he will not superintend their completion... Went up the hill to prairie where Macdonald and the men had gone after breakfast. Men were felling trees wherewith to erect a temporary dwelling, and M had wandered along prairie in easterly direction. A small garden about 40 yards square had been formed five weeks ago and sowed with Onions, Carrots, Turnips and Cabbage, which all appeared above surface, but seemed to suffer from drought. Some rows of potatoes planted at the same period, looked well. Today, a path across stream has been cleared about a gunshot above garden, where the Mills and Bridge are to be erected...

June 2nd. Up at 8 and had an excellent view of a long range of Snow speckled Mountains, in the penninsular opposite, they run in a North and South direction, and to the highest summit is given the classical name of Mount Olympus. The foreground is filled with a densely wooded Island indented with one or two bays [Wallace's or Andersons Island] about a mile in length, and of which there are several in this part of the Sound. Had a solitary walk in the prairie in the afternoon before dinner and came to a beautiful lake, nearly circular and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile round ["Old Fort Lake." What is here described as prairie is now - 1892 - nearly all forest, and on the site of the old garden and ploughed fields are growing fir trees from 12 to 18 inches in diameter. H.] the broad leafed *Nymphaea* floated on its unruffled bosom, and Flora adorned its margin with a profusion of yellow ranunculi and others unknown. On the sloping grassy banks forming the basin and small, glossy fresh leafed pine, something like the Larch vied with each other in number and size, but the former demanded the palm of beauty. Lay musing for nearly an hour on its banks, soothed by the melodious harmony of the grove, and feeling the holy influence of the Sabbath stealing over me in this beautiful and sequestered spot. Walked around the lake and turned homewards, sometimes in the open prairie, and again going through a maze of Oak and Pine, came to the steep banks of the burn, higher up than where the pathway is formed and there found the lazy cattle reclining in the shade, in the midst of luxuriant pasturage. What a pity that a country which so easily could afford subsistence to man is yet uninhabited, except by the lazy, uncivilized Indian, who does not and perhaps, never will take advantage of its many natural opportunities. Got bewildered in the wood extending for about 500 yards behind the brow of the hill which, all around the Bay, except at mouth of Nisqually, overhangs the beach. Made a north course till the brook again appeared, and being thus rectified, proceeded Westward, 'till arriving at the brow of the hill, had a peep at the Sound, with its woody islets and the lofty Mt. Olympus range rising high over a ridge of pines growing on an island in the foreground. A beautiful walk of more than a mile in extent south, could be formed along the face of this hill, until it should terminate in the vale of Nisqually, and with a slight aid from the axe, splendid prospects obtained. I have not explored the bank on the north side of the stream, but probably there a road could be much further prolonged, and when tired of the shady wood you could emerge into the bound-

less prairie, to which any nobleman's park in which I have been cannot be compared either in size, beauty or magnificence. descended the steep and gravelly face of hill, had a delightful plunge in the Sound and dined. In the evening, chatted and promenaded the beach with "M".

June 3rd. Spent the early part of the day in writing, in the evening chatted with "Mac" on the affairs of the company, and the Red River settlement.

June 4th. After breakfast, horses having been provided, Mac and I set out to explore prairie. Passing the small lake visited on Sunday, came to the marshy bank of the small, swift running stream, which has been denominated the Coe, crossed the stream in a N.E. direction, rode for more than a couple of miles with the wooded and marshy bank of stream on right, and sometimes a small pond, and low grassy hills thinly clad with Oak and Pine on left. The soil is fertile on the borders of the Coe, and this summer will yield a good crop of natural hay. Turned eastward, and had before us a boundless prairie, diversified with belts and clumps of Oak and Pine, and seeming to extend with only a few interruptions of wood to the base of a distant range of hills, apperrelled with sombre pine, and running N. and S. The prairie was bordered on each side with low, undulating hills, that on left covered with a profusion of young Oaks and hazel bushes, affording good cover to the deer, and the rich grassy plats at base, abundant feeding on the winding hills to right, pines crowned the summit, and Oak possessed the flanks. The soil of plain was dry and stony, but here and there isolated mounds appeared like green islands, adorned with verdant foliage, and again bordering smaller prairies, unless we consider the whole extent as one immense plain. In returning saw again the green winding hills, admired in coming to Nisqually, and called them Oak hills. They looked more beautiful than ever. Oak there holds undisputed sway, and no envious brushwood conceals the smooth grassy slopes from view... In the evening, after tea, gave "Mac" a brief lecture on the circulation of the blood... Saw the Indians performing incantations to the Great Spirit for the restoration to health of a sick child. Three were seated round a fire in the centre of mat hut, chiming a melodious chant and keeping time by striking on a paddle with small sticks a fourth, who occasionally chimed in with the singers was attending and perhaps administering to the infant - an old woman, also seated by the fire took no part in the ceremony.

June 5th. Up early and out in a canoe before breakfast after wild ducks, fired several unsuccessful shots, killed a species of *Colymbus*, or Guilemot, not described in Cuvier. After breakfast set out with M. in a canoe to visit the banks of Nisqually river. landed twice on the quaking sands at its mouth and again on a broad meadow forming its eastern bank, the meadow was probably  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles square, at its lower part, marshy and covered with luxuriant plantains, higher up with tall, waving grass and a slender species of *Inncus*. M talked of procuring hay here, which the place, at present, would abundantly afford. Lagged behind M and shot some birds... overtook M at an indian lodge on rivers bank, where the inmates were eating the young flower stalks of a species of plantain abundant on the meadow (the young stalks of the Salmon-berry. H.) joined in and enjoyed the repast. Crossed the western bank and proceeded for a considerable distance along another meadow, perhaps 3 miles square, similar in its character and productions as the former (The Squally river delta is referred to here. H.) Both meadows are possessed of fertile soil, and would afford subsistence to a large herd of cattle... After dinner accompanied M to farm, which we had not visited for several days - the potatoes were greatly improved by the rains of Monday and Tuesday, and also the Carrots and Turnips. A pen had been formed near the house of Pierre Charles, the superintendent of work, in which the oxen were enclosed, and near the banks of the Coe a substantial house built of Pine. The space occupied by this infant establishment is perhaps 100 square yards and it is enclosed on all sides by tall pines, except towards the N.E. where it is open to the...