

Columbia, proceed thence to Fort Colville, thence south to Lapwai, the mission station on the Kooskooskee river, thence to Wallawalla, and returning by the way of the Yakima river, repass the mountains to Nisqually.—(The orders are given in Appendix XII.)

The other land party consisted of Messrs. Drayton and Waldron of the Vincennes, myself, and two servants. Our intended route lay across the country to the Columbia river. First, I proposed to visit Astoria, then Fort Vancouver, and the Willamette settlement, and to proceed up the river as far as Wallawalla. From Astoria I proposed to send parties from the Peacock into the interior, and to set on foot the survey of the Columbia river, by means of her boats.

The establishment of an observatory also claimed my attention: a suitable site was found on the top of the hill, within hail of the ship. Here the instruments and clocks were landed, and put up in a small clearing, whence the trees had been cut in order to supply the steamer with fuel.

All these preparations occupied us until the 15th, when the brig was reported as ready, and sailed the same day. During the above interval I had the pleasure of visits from Dr. Richmond and Mr. Wilson, of the Methodist Mission, stationed at this place.

In returning the visits of Mr. Anderson and Captain M'Niel, I had an opportunity of seeing the so-called fort. It is constructed of pickets, enclosing a space about two hundred feet square, with four corner bastions. Within this enclosure are the agents' stores, and about half a dozen houses, built of logs, and roofed with bark. This fort was considered quite large when it was first established, but since it has become an agricultural post as well as a trading one, it is found to be too small. Its locality is also ill chosen, on account of the difficulty of obtaining water, which has to be brought from a distance of nearly a mile. I was informed that there was now little necessity for any sort of protection against the Indians, who are but few in number, and very peaceably disposed.

Mr. Anderson and Captain M'Niel both reside in the fort with their families: both are married to half-breeds, and have several fine children. After spending some time in conversing about my plans, Mr. Anderson was kind enough to show me his garden, which is in an enclosure just without the pickets. Here I saw peas a foot high, strawberries and gooseberries in full bloom, and some of the former nearly ripe, with salad that had gone to seed, three feet high, very large and thrifty.

Near by were to be seen fine fields of grain, large barns and sheep-folds, agricultural implements, and workmen with cattle engaged in the various employments of husbandry.