

I also visited Dr. Richmond, who had been settled here for some months, and occupies a nice log house, built on the borders of one of the beautiful prairies. Here I found Mrs. Richmond and Mrs. Wilson, with four fine, rosy, and fat children, whose appearance spoke volumes for the health of the climate. This mission has but recently been established: so far as respects its prospects, they are not very flattering. I shall have occasion hereafter to allude to the operations of the missions, and shall therefore defer any farther remarks at present. The location of the mission-house, on the borders of an extensive and beautiful prairie, can scarcely be surpassed, and would be admirably adapted for a large settlement, if the soil was in any respect equal to its appearance. This is composed of a light-brown earth, intermixed with a large proportion of gravel and stones: it requires an abundance of rain to bring any crop to perfection, and this rarely falls during the summer months. At the season when we arrived, nothing could be more beautiful, or to appearance more luxuriant than the plains, which were covered with flowers of every colour and kind: among these were to be seen *Ranunculus*, *Scilla*, *Lupines*, *Collinsia*, and *Balsamoriza* (a small sunflower peculiar to Oregon); but the soil is quite thin, and barely sufficient for these in many places. The best land occurs where the prairies are intersected or broken by belts of woods, that have a dense undergrowth, consisting of *Hazel*, *Spiræa*, *Cornus*, and *Prunus*. On the borders of these belts are scattered oaks and some ash, arbutus, birch, and poplars, and in some places the yew is to be found; but the predominant character of the vegetation is of the tribe of *Coniferæ*, which seem to occupy large ranges of the country, and among which the cedar is found to attain a large size.

In connexion with the Company's establishment at Nisqually, they have a large dairy, several hundred head of cattle, and among them seventy milch cows, which yield a large supply of butter and cheese: they have also large crops of wheat, peas, and oats, and were preparing the ground for potatoes. These operations are conducted by a farmer and dairyman, brought from England expressly to superintend these affairs. A few Indians are engaged in attending the flocks, and the Company's servants are almost exclusively employed as labourers.

I have mentioned these agricultural establishments as connected with the Hudson Bay Company, and they are in reality so; but as their charter precludes their engaging in these operations, another company has been organized, under the title of the "Puget Sound Company," the shares of which are held by the officers, agents, and servants of the Hudson Bay Company, and its officers are exclusively chosen from among them. Dr. M'Laughlin, for instance, chief officer