

understand that in 1842 some of the settlers fed their horses upon their finest wheat.

The scenery around Nisqually is very much enhanced in beauty by the splendid appearance of Mount Rainier, which lies nearly east of it; and from some of the open prairies there are three of these magnificent snowy peaks in sight. They are all nearly regular cones, with cleft tops, as though they had a terminal crater on their summit. I was exceedingly anxious to make the ascent of one of these, Mount Hood; but owing to the non-arrival and loss of the Peacock, I found it impossible to do so.

On the 13th May, Mr. Anderson was kind enough to present me with two bullocks for the crews, and a quantity of vegetables, for which we felt ourselves much indebted. A large supply of milk was also sent to us daily from the dairy, and many other little kindnesses and attentions were manifested.

To return Captain M'Niel's visit, I went on board the steamer, which is called the Beaver. She is of one hundred and twenty tons burden, and fitted with a low-pressure engine, similar to those in use in the English boats. She was now very much out of repair, having been some years on this station. Her employment was to ply between the northern posts with supplies, and bring back the returns of the season's trade; at the same time trading at the different points with the Indians. Captain M'Niel is a native of Boston, and was extensively engaged in the northwest trade. He proved to be a serious competitor with the Hudson Bay Company in their business, and was in consequence bought off. He is now a trader in the Company's service, owning stock, and receiving a share of the dividends; to qualify him for which, it became necessary for him to become a naturalized British subject.

The steamer is ill adapted to the services on which she is employed. for she consumes a large quantity of fuel, and has not sufficient capacity to carry as much as is necessary for her entire voyage. She is therefore obliged to stop at intermediate places to obtain a supply of wood, which must be cut by her own crew. She is fitted with a suitable armament, barricades, and boarding-nettings, which are deemed very essential on the northern coast, where the savage tribes are both hostile and numerous.

On the 17th, the boats left the ship under Lieutenant Case, Messrs. Totten, Colvocoressis, and May. I had by this time succeeded in establishing the observatory, and had ordered a log house to be built to perform the pendulum experiments, and another for the purposes of drawing, &c. These I purposed to use on my return from the