

Columbia river trip. Lieutenant Carr, with Lieutenant Budd and Mr. Eld, were left in charge of the duty connected with the observatory, as well as of the ship.

Knowing how much time is lost on boat expeditions by the use of grog, and the accidents that are liable to occur when a strict watch cannot be kept over it, I decided not to send any spirits with the party. I am fully persuaded myself, that that portion of the ration is unnecessary; but in order not to deprive any of the sailors of it who might deem it essential, I had the boats' crews called aft, and found that nearly all were in the regular habit of drawing their grog. I then offered to any who might wish to continue the use of that part of their ration, the option of remaining with the ship, and having their places in the boats supplied by others. There was no hesitation on the part of any of them: all wished to go; and all were willing to give up their spirit ration. I take this occasion to say, that all the most laborious and exposed duty of the Expedition, was performed without the spirit ration, and I am well satisfied that it may be dispensed with without injury to any one, and indeed greatly to the benefit of the naval service.*

The land expedition, under Lieutenant Johnson, was finally ready. Few can imagine the chafferings, delays, and vexations, attendant upon the equipment of a land party in this region: the buying of horses from the Indians; the non-arrival of guides; the various equipments necessary for loading the horses, securing the loads to prevent injury to the horses' backs, and the loss of them, all consume much time, and need continual foresight. Through all these difficulties and perplexities, which were of a kind that most tries the patience, Lieutenant Johnson struggled. An Indian is not slow in perceiving your wants, and views the dilemmas in which you may be placed with a becoming sang-froid. Mr. Anderson's kindness had obviated many of these obstacles; but it was impossible to proceed without the aid of the Indians, who were always prone to recede from their bargains, under a feeling that they had not received enough. After the bargain was completed, and the price agreed upon, under the form of "pot-latch," or "gift," the equivalent was always to be again treated for, and thus the price of the article or service was often very much enhanced. In dealing with these Indians, it was always necessary to feign a great indifference of manner, in order to obtain the article, and also in closing the bargain after the preliminaries are settled.

* Since our return, Congress has reduced the spirit ration one-half: this is a good step, but its total abolishment would be a better one.