

usual bed of the stream is about one hundred yards wide, with a rapid current: its course in this place was north-northwest, and its average depth at the ford about three feet. We again ascended a similar bank on the opposite side to the plain. Our route then continued through most beautiful park scenery, with the prairie now and then opening to view, in which many magnificent pines grew detached. The prairie was covered with a profusion of flowers.

After crossing Shute's river, in all respects similar to the Nisqually, we encamped, just before night, having travelled about twenty-two miles. Our tents were pitched, and fires made; but on examining our alforcas,* we were reminded that we were but novices in such travelling, for we found that all our small stores had been destroyed in fording the streams, the sugar being turned into syrup, &c. This was a mishap over which we had a hearty laugh; it rendered the part that was saved doubly precious, and made us enjoy our evening meal. After our tents were pitched, one of our servants discovered a snake in the tent, which caused him much alarm; but such a circumstance is considered so common, that it excites but little or no surprise in those who have travelled in Oregon. The abundance of such reptiles may be considered one of the characteristics of the country, and if one is not bitten before the end of a journey, he may think himself fortunate. In the lower country, however, there are few snakes that are venomous, and the rattlesnake is rarely seen, in consequence of the wetness of the soil and dampness of the climate: but in the middle section, where it is dry, they are to be found in great numbers.

Being somewhat fatigued, we all slept soundly. The guide and Indians, according to the custom of the country, after rolling themselves in their blankets, lay down near the fire (which continued to burn brightly all night) without any shelter. In the morning we found by the tracks that elk and deer had been near us, probably attracted by the fire. Our horses having been hobbled, were easily procured: they had not strayed, as the grass around the tents was of the most nutritious kind.

In the morning, when we resumed our journey, the park scenery increased in beauty, and it was almost impossible to realize that we were in a savage and wild country, and that nature, not art, had perfected the landscape. Beautiful lakes, with greensward growing to the water edge, with deer feeding fearlessly on their margin, and every tint of flower, many of which were not new to our gardens at home, strewn in profusion around; we could hardly, in galloping along, but

* A kind of saddle-bag.