

Notwithstanding a hard rain fell during the night, we passed it very comfortably. The Indians supplied us with some fresh salmon, which they had already begun to take in the rivers that were in sight from our encampment. They reported that the river was navigable for canoes, though occasional obstructions were met with from fallen timber.

Mr. Drayton found here some beautiful pieces of cornelian, of large size and bright red colour.

The morning proved beautiful, and one of the finest days succeeded that I ever remember to have seen. Our route lay through alternate woods and prairies, the former composed of large pines and cedars. Several considerable streams of water were passed, whose banks were not so high as those before met with; the latter covered with strawberries, so tempting as to induce us to dismount and feast upon them, and many plants that excited a feeling of interest, and reminded us of home: among the number was the red honeysuckle (*Caprifolium*), which was in full bloom. After passing extensive cammass plains, we reached the Company's farm on the Cowlitz, which occupies an extensive prairie on the banks of that river.

They have here six or seven hundred acres enclosed, and under cultivation, with several large granaries, a large farm-house, and numerous out-buildings to accommodate the dairy, workmen, cattle, &c. The grounds appear well prepared, and were covered with a luxuriant crop of wheat. At the farther end of the prairie was to be seen a settlement, with its orchards, &c., and between the trees, the chapel and parsonage of the Catholic Mission gave an air of civilization to the whole. The degree of progress resembled that of a settlement of several years' standing in our Western States, with the exception, however, of the remains of the conquered forest; for here the ground is ready for the plough, and nature seems as it were to invite the husbandman to his labours.

We were kindly received by Mr. Forrest, the superintendent, who quickly made arrangements for canoes to carry us down the Cowlitz and Columbia river to Astoria, or Fort George. He also provided us with an excellent repast, and pressed us to remain over night, which we would gladly have done, had I not found that it would be impossible for us to reach Astoria the next day if we did so.

At this farm the Company have a large dairy, and are about erecting a saw and grist mill. The superintendent's dwelling is large, and built of well-hewn logs; with the workmen's houses, &c., it forms quite a village.

Large numbers of cattle were being brought in for the night, which