

planks and joists, about fifteen feet in length, set with one end in the ground, to protect them from attack.

The Indians of this region even now make war upon each other on the most trivial occasion, and for the most part to satisfy individual revenge. The Hudson Bay Company's officers possess and exert a most salutary influence, endeavouring to preserve peace at all hazards. It is now quite safe for a white man to pass in any direction through the part of the country where their posts are, and in case of accident to any white settler, a war-party is at once organized, and the offender is hunted up. About a year previous to our arrival, an Indian was executed at Astoria for the murder of a white man, whom he had found asleep, killed, and stolen his property.

He was taken, tried, found guilty, and executed in the presence of most of the settlers. The culprit was a slave, and it was some time before the chief to whom he belonged would give him up. It was proved on the trial, and through the confession of the slave, that he had stolen the property and committed the murder by order of his master, who took all the stolen goods. The master made his escape when he found his agency had been discovered; and I understood that he kept himself aloof from all the Company's posts, until the matter should be forgotten.

As the tide had risen so much as to render it difficult to walk along the beach, we returned to Mr. Frost's in a crazy canoe, and were very near being upset. Had this accident happened, it must have proved fatal to some of us in the strong tide that was running; we therefore felt much relieved to get again to the beach. After partaking of Mrs. Frost's good cheer, we returned to Astoria, much pleased with our day's jaunt.

On the Clatsop beach, we saw a great number of dead fish. Mr. Birnie informed me, that they were thrown up in great numbers during the autumn; and were supposed to be killed by a kind of worm, generated in their stomachs.

On the 28th, the Company's barques Cowlitz and Columbia were in sight: the former bound for Oahu, the latter for Sitka. By the former, we sent letters for home.

Our Indians having recovered from their fatigue, I resolved to proceed with Mr. Drayton to Vancouver, leaving Mr. Waldron to await the arrival of the Peacock, and to recruit from his sickness. We embarked at noon, having Mr. Birnie with us, to join the vessels above. We soon found ourselves in much more sea and wind than our canoe could bear; and, by Plumondon's advice, took in our sail, and made for Tongue Point as quickly as we could. He deemed it much too