

dangerous to venture across the open bay in the small canoe we had bought in lieu of the one we had come down in.

We landed at Tongue Point and encamped; but as we had much time yet before dark, we went to the top of the Point, which is said to be the position best adapted for a fortification to defend the channel up the river. Tongue Point is a high bluff of trap rock, covered with trees of large dimensions: the top has been cleared and taken possession of by Mr. Birnie, who has erected a log hut and planted a patch of potatoes. The hut was inhabited for a year, by a Sandwich Islander and his wife. It is rather a rough spot for cultivation, but the end of occupancy was answered by it. There is a small portage on Tongue Point, which canoes often use in bad weather, to avoid accidents that might occur in the rough seas that make in the channel that passes round it.

Mr. Drayton picked up a considerable number of shells.

Late in the afternoon, Mr. Birnie left us, and joined the barque Columbia. Mr. Drayton and myself made ourselves comfortable, notwithstanding it rained and blew hard. The next morning we set out for Vancouver; but our progress was slow, and we were obliged to take advantage of all the eddies. By the afternoon, however, we had reached Oak Point, and stopped at a collection of lodges in order to obtain some salmon.

Near Puget Island, we encountered a party fishing, and saw them take a large salmon; but they demanded such an exorbitant price for it (equal to one dollar and twenty-five cents), that we refused to give it; considering it bad policy to indulge their cupidity.* Plumondon said, that they had no desire to sell the fish, as they had a superstitious objection to dispose of the first fish to strangers: even if induced to sell it, they will always take the heart out and roast it for themselves; for they believe, that if the heart of the fish were eaten by a stranger at the first of the season, their success would be destroyed, and they would catch no more fish. To prevent this, they consider it requisite that a certain number of "sleeps" or days should pass before any are sold. The price of a large salmon is about ten cents in trade.

Here we unexpectedly found the medicine-man, employed in going through his incantations and preparing his medicines. One of our young Indians, who was a chief, landed, without knowing what was going on, for the purpose of making the inquiries we desired. He was met with direful looks, and in great wrath ordered by all the

* On mentioning the subject at Vancouver, I was told I ought to have taken the fish and paid the Indian what I thought proper.