

when they would cross over the country, and return by the way of Mexico or Texas.

It gave me much pleasure to see the buoyancy of spirit, so truly characteristic of our countrymen, with which they carried on their plan.

Before I left the Columbia in September, they asked me for a sea-letter for their protection; at the same time informing me that their vessel was launched, met their expectations, and was called the "Star of Oregon."

The grove of oak on this island was beautiful, forming an extensive wood, with no undergrowth. The species that grows here is a white-oak, of very close grain. Its specific gravity is much greater than water; and it is used for the purposes to which we apply both oak and hickory. It makes excellent hoops for casks, and is the only timber of this region that is considered durable.

The next morning, I left the boat-builders, after assuring them that they should have all the assistance I could give them in their outfit.

After we had embarked, we were told by our guide, Plumondon, that he had with him saddles and bridles, and orders for horses, &c., in order that we might meet with no delay or inconvenience in our trip up the Willamette. I felt these kind attentions and the manner they were bestowed; and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge how much we were benefited by them.

Early on the morning of the 5th, we set out for the falls of the Willamette. As they are approached, the river becomes much narrower; and the banks, which are of trap rock, more precipitous. This river is navigable for small vessels, even at its lowest stage, as high as the mouth of the Klackamus, three miles below its falls. In the low state of the river, there is a rapid at the Klackamus.

We reached the falls about noon, where we found the missionary station under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Waller. The Hudson Bay Company have a trading-post here, and are packing fish, which the Indians catch in great quantities. This is said to be one of the best salmon-fisheries on the river.

There was a petty dispute between Mr. Waller and the Company, and he complained of them. It seems that the Company refuse to buy any beaver-skins, except from the hunters and trappers; and he accuses them of monopoly in consequence. The Company, on the other hand, say that they have no idea of selling goods out of their own stores, for the purpose of enabling others to enter into competition with them; and that they will spare no expense to keep the trade, as long as they can, in their own hands. This is certainly not unfair. I cannot help feeling