

rock. There they take many fish, that have succeeded in passing the lower fall, with a hook fastened to the end of a pole. These are esteemed to be of the best flavour, as they are the strongest and fattest. It is said from these places the fish can be seen very distinctly passing up, and are taken very rapidly; but few Indians are willing or expose themselves to the risk of fishing there. The number of Indians at the Willamette Falls during the fishing season, is about seventy, including all ages and sexes: there are others who visit the falls in canoes for fish, which at times will raise the number to not far from one hundred. Those fish which are unable to get up, remain some time at the falls, very much exhausted, and finally resort to the smaller streams below. Mr. Drayton's sketch of the scene is given in the vignette.

The rocks here change their character within a few miles. Much volcanic scoria, vesicular lava, and pudding-stone, intermingled with blocks of trap, and many crystals of quartz, occur. My attention was called to this particularly by old Mr. Moore, who had set up his claims to the west side of the falls, communicating to me in confidence that he intended to erect furnaces for smelting iron, &c. Although I saw the old man some time afterwards, and told him of his mistake, he would not believe that he had been in error. On the rocks are to be seen large knots of lamprey eels, worming themselves up, which make them look at a little distance as if alive with snakes.

After spending some time at the falls, we returned to the house, and thence passed over to the west side of the river in a boat. Plumondon informed us that all our baggage had been transported over the portage, which is about a third of a mile in length.

On landing, we passed through an Indian village, which was absolutely swarming with fleas; a filthier place cannot be found in Oregon. Before we reached our boat, a heavy shower of rain overtook us, and gave us a good drenching; we, however, embarked for Camp Maude du Sable. We now found our progress very different from what we had made below the falls: the current was strong, and we made but little headway; our boatmen being intent upon taking advantage of the smallest eddies, we were continually crossing and recrossing the river for this purpose. The banks had become much higher and more picturesque. This part of the river is considered dangerous when the water is high, and accidents frequently occur; for this reason, the Indians in passing are still in the habit of making a propitiatory offering of some of their food, such as dried salmon or peas, in order that they may have a safe passage by. Before night we encamped just above