

by the Catholic portion of the settlers. I therefore could not avoid drawing their attention to the fact, that after all the various officers they proposed making were appointed, there would be no subjects for the law to deal with. I further advised them to wait until the government of the United States should throw its mantle over them. These views, I was afterwards told, determined a postponement of their intentions.

Dr. Babcock and others, myself and officers, were tendered an invitation from the American settlers of the Willamette, to partake of a 4th of July dinner with them, which I was obliged to decline, on account of the various duties that pressed upon us.

The next day the gentlemen of the mission proposed a ride to what they term "the Mill," distant about nine miles, in a southeast direction.

We passed, in going thither, several fine prairies, both high and low. The soil on the higher is of a gravelly or light nature, while on the lower it is a dark loam, intermixed with a bluish clay. The prairies are at least one-third greater in extent than the forest: they were again seen carpeted with the most luxuriant growth of flowers, of the richest tints of red, yellow, and blue, extending in places a distance of fifteen to twenty miles.

The timber we saw consisted of the live and white oak, cedar, pine, and fir.

We reached "the Mill" by noon, which consists of a small grist and saw mill on the borders of an extensive prairie. They are both under the same roof, and are worked by a horizontal wheel. The grist-mill will not grind more than ten bushels a day; and during the whole summer both mills are idle, for want of water, the stream on which they are situated being a very small one, emptying into the Willamette. We found here two good log houses, and about twenty lay members, mechanics, of the mission under Mr. Raymond, who is the principal at the mills. There are, besides, about twenty-five Indian boys, who, I was told, were not in a condition to be visited or inspected. Those whom I saw were nearly grown up, ragged and half-clothed, lounging about under the trees. Their appearance was any thing but pleasing and satisfactory; and I must own I was greatly disappointed, for I had been led to expect that order and neatness at least would have been found among them, considering the strong force of missionaries engaged here.

From the number of persons about the premises, this little spot had the air and stir of a new secular settlement; and I understood that it is intended to be the permanent location of the mission, being considered more healthy than the bank of the Willamette. The