

instruction, if so it may be called, twenty-five at the Willamette station; at the Dalles, and occasionally on the Klackamus river, are the only places where divine service is attempted. I would not have it understood that by these remarks I have any desire to throw blame on those who direct or are concerned in this missionary enterprise, or to make any imputations on the labourers; but I feel it a duty I owe my countrymen, to lay the truth before them, such as we saw it. I am aware that the missionaries come out to this country to colonize, and with the Christian religion as their guide and law, to give the necessary instruction, and hold out inducements to the Indians to quit their wandering habits, settle, and become cultivators of the soil. This object has not been yet attained in any degree, as was admitted by the missionaries themselves; and how it is to be effected without having constantly around them large numbers, and without exertions and strenuous efforts, I am at a loss to conceive. I cannot but believe, that the same labour and money which have been expended here, would have been much more appropriately and usefully spent among the tribes about the Straits of Juan de Fuca, who are numerous, and fit objects for instruction.

At the Rev. Mr. Hines's I had another long conversation relative to the laws, &c. The only instance (which speaks volumes for the good order of the settlers), of any sort of crime being committed since the foundation of the settlement, was the stealing of a horse; and a settler who had been detected stealing his neighbour's pigs, by enticing them to his house, dropping them into his cellar, where they were slaughtered and afterwards eaten. The theft was discovered by the numbers of bones frequently found around his premises. He was brought to a confession, and compelled to pay the value of the stolen hogs, simply by the force of public opinion.

We took leave of Mr. Raymond and his party, wishing them success in their labours, and rode back over the fine prairies at a full gallop, in the direction that seemed most convenient to save us distance. We stopped for a short time to take leave of Mr. and Mrs. Abernethy, and then passed to the site of the old mission on the banks of the Willamette. The river here makes a considerable bend, and has undermined and carried away its banks to some extent: a short distance beyond, it is making rapid inroads into the rich soil of these bottom lands. The log houses have the character that all old log houses acquire, and I was warned, if I desired to pass a comfortable night, to avoid them.

This is the usual place of crossing the river, which is too deep to be forded, and about two hundred yards wide. Its banks were twenty feet high, and composed of stratified layers of alluvium. On the shore