

occupied the evening in getting my usual observations for latitude and time.

Mr. Drayton desiring to stay a longer time at the falls, to procure as many specimens of fish as he could, and make drawings, I determined to return to Vancouver without him; which I did by the following day at sunset. On the way I stopped at the boat-builders' camp, who I found had made great progress in their undertaking, and appeared to work with great unanimity.

At Vancouver, I was again kindly made welcome by Dr. M'Laughlin, Mr. Douglass, and the officers of the establishment. During my absence, Mr. Peter Ogden, chief factor of the northern district, had arrived with his brigade. The fort had, in consequence, a very different appearance from the one it bore when I left it. I was exceedingly amused with the voyageurs of the brigade, who were to be seen lounging about in groups, decked in gay feathers, ribands, &c., full of conceit, and with the flaunting air of those who consider themselves the beau-ideal of grace and beauty; full of frolic and fun, and seeming to have nothing to do but to attend to the decorations of their persons and seek for pleasure; looking down with contempt upon those who are employed about the fort, whose sombre cast of countenance and business employments form a strong contrast to these jovial fellows.

Mr. Ogden has been thirty-two years in this country, and consequently possesses much information respecting it; having travelled nearly all over it. He resides at Fort St. James, on Stuart's Lake, and has six posts under his care.

The northern section of the country he represents as not susceptible of cultivation, on account of the proximity of the snowy mountains, which cause sudden changes, even in the heat of summer, that would destroy the crops.

His posts are amply supplied with salmon from the neighbouring waters, that empty themselves into the sounds on the coast. These fish are dried, and form the greatest part of the food of those employed by the Company during the whole year. Their small-stores of flour, &c., are all carried from Colville and Vancouver. Furs are very plenty in the northern region, and are purchased at low prices from the Indians: his return, this year, was valued at one hundred thousand dollars, and this, he informed me, was much less than the usual amount.

On the other hand, the southern section of this country, I was here informed, was scarcely worth the expense of an outlay for a party of trappers.

This southern country, as will be seen from what has been already stated, is very well adapted to the raising of cattle and sheep: of the