

CHAPTER XI.

W A L L A W A L L A.

1841.

ON my return to Nisqually, I found that news had been received from the various surveying and exploring parties, all of which it was reported were advancing rapidly in the execution of their duties. The preparations for the scientific operations, which had been left to the charge of Lieutenant Carr, were all completed, and the two log houses had been built, in which we now began to perform the pendulum experiments, and make astronomic observations. In these we were engaged until the 4th of July. As the details of them will be given in another place, I shall only advert here to the operations which I had entrusted to Mr. Drayton, and which will form the subject of the present chapter.

It was stated in the preceding chapter, that through Mr. Ogden's kindness, a passage was offered up the Columbia river as far as Wallawalla. It had been my original intention to despatch a party from the Peacock in this direction, to cross the Rocky Mountains to the head waters of Yellowstone river; and I had engaged a Mr. Rogers to accompany it. Orders for the purpose had been prepared, and left to be delivered to Captain Hudson when he should arrive.

I now, however, began to apprehend that some serious accident had happened to that vessel, and I deemed it important to secure at all events, the examination of so interesting a part of this country, particularly when it could be performed under such favourable circumstances as those offered by Mr. Ogden. Mr. Drayton was therefore detached to make this jaunt, and to his industry and observation I am indebted for many of the facts about to be detailed. For others