

In the morning they were again on their route, and reached Little river, from which the station of the Methodist Mission is three-fourths of a mile distant. Here they were met by Mr. Perkins, who was waiting for his letters and some packages of goods the brigade had brought. Mr. Drayton accompanied Mr. Perkins to the mission, while the brigade moved on towards the Dalles. Mr. Daniel Lee, the principal of the mission, was found near the house, reaping his wheat.

At this station there are three families, those of the Rev. Mr. Lee, Mr. Perkins, and a lay member, who is a farmer. Their reception of Mr. Drayton was exceedingly kind.

The mission consists of two log and board houses, hewn, sawed, and built by themselves, with a small barn, and several out-houses. The buildings are situated on high ground, among scattered oaks, and immediately in the rear is an extensive wood of oaks and pines, with numerous sharp and jagged knolls and obelisk-looking pillars of conglomerate, interspersed among basaltic rocks: in front is an alluvial plain, having a gradual descent towards the river, and extending to the right and left. This contains about two thousand acres of good land, well supplied with springs, with Little river, and other smaller streams passing through it. The soil is made up of decomposed conglomerate, and in places shows a deep black loam. Around this tract the land is high, devoid of moisture, and covered with basaltic rocks or sand.

They here raise wheat and potatoes by irrigation: the latter grow in great perfection, and wheat yields twenty to thirty bushels to the acre. They had just gathered a crop of two hundred bushels from land which they irrigate by means of several fine streams near their houses. They might raise much more, if they were disposed. The summers here are much hotter than at Vancouver, and consequently drier; the spring rains cease here earlier, and the people harvest in June.

There are only a few Indians residing near the mission during the winter, and these are a very miserable set, who live in holes in the ground, not unlike a clay oven, in order to keep warm. They are too lazy to cut wood for their fires. The number that visit the Dalles during the fishing season, is about fifteen hundred: these are from all the country round, and are generally the outlawed of the different villages. The missionaries complain much of the insolent behaviour and of the thieving habits, both of the visitors, and those who reside permanently at the falls. They are, therefore, very desirous of having a few settlers near, that they may have some protection from this annoyance, as they are frequently under apprehension that their lives will be taken.

It is not to be expected that the missionaries could be able to make