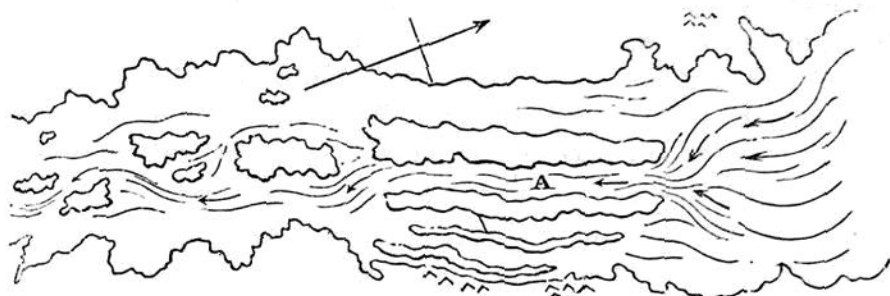


of water in the river above, which is dammed by this narrow pass, and is constantly increasing, until it backs the waters, and overflows many low grounds and islands above. The tremendous roar arising from the rushing of the river through this outlet, with the many whirlpools and eddies which it causes, may be more readily imagined than described.



The boat was repaired by the afternoon, and an express was despatched up the river to Wallawalla, in order to prepare the post for the reception of the brigade, and inform the gentleman who had charge of it that he would be required to move to the north with the brigade. The officers of the Company have but little time allowed them to attend to their comforts: so completely are they under the control of accident, that they are liable to be called upon at any moment. Their rights, however, are looked to as much as possible, and the great principle adopted as the incentive to action, is the advancement they may obtain by their own merit, through which alone they can get forward. In consequence of adhering to this principle, the Hudson Bay Company are always well served. The discipline that is preserved is the very best, and sits lightly upon all. Those who do not meet with advancement have some great fault in a trader's eyes. The enterprise and energy required to serve this Company well is of no ordinary kind, and few men exhibit more of both these qualities than those I met with in its employ.

On the morning of the 4th July, they began to pass the portage, which is a mile in length. It is very rugged, and the weather being exceedingly warm, many of the Indians were employed to transport articles on their horses, of which they have a large number. It required seventy men to transport the boats, which were carried over bottom upwards, the gunwale resting on the men's shoulders. By night all was safely transported, the boats newly gummed, and the encampment formed on a sandy beach. The sand, in consequence of the high wind, was blown about in great quantities, and every body and thing was literally covered with it.