

From the high hills on the southern bank of the river, there is an extensive view of the country to the south. The distant part of this prospect was made up of rolling, barren, and arid hills. These hills, as well as the country nearer at hand, were covered with a natural hay or bunch-grass, which affords very nutritious food for cattle.

The missionaries have been stationed at the Dalles since 1838. The primary object of this mission is, in the first place, to give the Gospel to the Indians, and next to teach them such arts of civilization as shall enable them to improve their condition, and by degrees to become an enlightened community. There are many difficulties that the missionary has to contend with, in first coming among these people, none of which are greater than the want of knowledge of their true character. The missionaries, after a full opportunity of knowing these Indians, consider covetousness as their prevailing sin, which is exhibited in lying, dishonest traffic, gambling, and horse-racing. Of the latter they are extremely fond, and are continually desirous of engaging in it. This sport frequently produces contentions, which often end in bloodshed. Stealing prevails to an alarming extent: scarcely any thing that can be removed is safe. The missionaries have several times had their houses broken open, and their property more or less damaged. The stealing of horses in particular is very common, but after being broken down they are sometimes returned. There are but few chiefs to whom the appeal for redress can be made, and they can exercise but little control over such a lawless crew. Those who gather here are generally the very worst of the tribes around.

The number of Indians within the Dalles mission is reckoned at about two thousand; in but few of these, however, has any symptom of reform shown itself. They frequent the three great salmon-fisheries of the Columbia, the Dalles, Cascades, and Chutes, and a few were found at a salmon-fishery about twenty-five miles up the Chutes river.

The season for fishing salmon, which is the chief article of food in this country, lasts during five months, from May to September. The country also furnishes quantities of berries, nuts, roots, and game, consisting of bears, elk, and deer; but, owing to the improvidence of the native inhabitants, they are, notwithstanding this ample supply of articles of food, oftentimes on the verge of starvation.

After the fishing and trading season is over, they retire to their villages, and pass the rest of the year in inactivity, consuming the food supplied by the labours of the preceding summer; and as the season for fishing comes round, they again resort to the fisheries. This is the ordinary course of life among these Indians, whose dissi-