

this is a rocky region, there are vast quantities of fine sand deposited every where, which is brought down the river. On this the encampments are necessarily made; and the sand is exceedingly dry and hot, which renders the camping disagreeable. There are few places more uncomfortable; for a basaltic wall rises nine hundred or a thousand feet within two hundred yards of the camp, which reflects the sun's rays down upon the beach of white sand, rendering the atmosphere almost insupportable. To give some idea of the heat, Mr. Drayton found it uncomfortably hot to sit down upon the rocks an hour after the sun had set.

One of their amusements at the time of encamping was a rattlesnake hunt, in which several large ones were killed.

The brigade, as usual, set out early, and with the sun there arose a fine breeze, which carried them briskly onwards. About eight miles above their encampment they came to the Hieroglyphic Rocks. These are about twenty feet high, and on them are supposed to be recorded the deeds of some former tribe. They passed so quickly that Mr. Drayton could make only two hasty sketches of them; and it is to be regretted that they were not sufficiently perfect to allow of their being given in this place.

After passing John Day's river, the country becomes much lower and more arid, and the current comparatively less. The weather was exceedingly hot, and the drifting sands were in greater quantities than before, so much so that whole islands were passed entirely composed of the sand. They now arrived at the long reach, just below Grand Island; the country becoming sandy and so flat as to give a view of the Grand Rapid Hills. It has the appearance of having been, at no very remote period, the bed of an extensive lake. Here the voyageurs began to be relieved from their toil at the pole, which they exchanged for the tow-line and oar, and the Indians departed the moment their services were no longer wanted. The distance made this day was fifty-seven miles, for which they were indebted to the breeze. The day before, they made only sixteen miles.

While passing close along the banks, they met with numerous pin-tailed grouse, so tame as to allow the boats to approach within a few feet of them before they would fly.

At their encampment, Mr. Drayton found a large burying-place, from which he was desirous of getting a skull; but, to the surprise of the party, several Indians made their appearance and prevented it. The corpses were placed above ground, in their clothing, and then sewed up in a skin or blanket; and the personal property of each deceased individual was placed near the body: over all were laid a