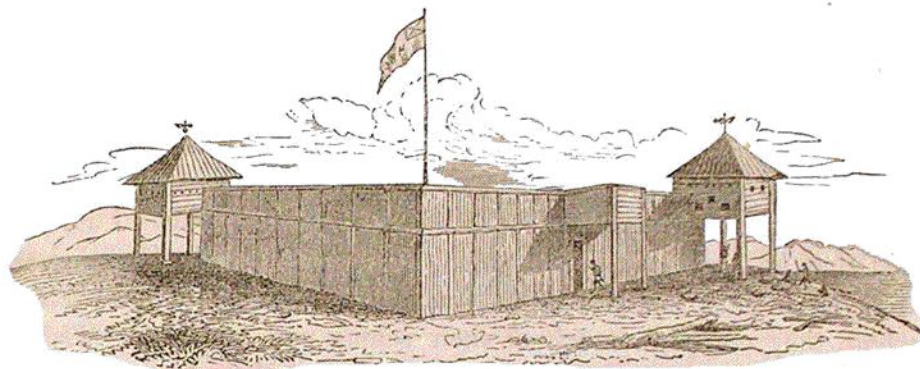


may be looked over. It has two bastions, one on the southwest and the other on the northeast. On the inside are several buildings, constructed of logs and mud ; one of these is the Indian store : the whole



FORT WALLAWALLA.

is covered with sand and dust, which is blown about in vast quantities. The climate is hot ; and every thing about the fort seemed so dry, that it appeared as if a single spark would ignite the whole and reduce it to ashes.

The party under Lieutenant Johnson had passed by about a week previously, on their return to Nisqually.

At all the principal stopping-places, one or two old Indians would present themselves to Mr. Ogden, to demand their annual present for services rendered him and the Company.

Many years back, Mr. Ogden, while on his route, was attacked at the place where the fort stands, by the Wallawalla tribe, and was obliged to take refuge on the island near the fort, where he made a stand and completely routed the Indians. This occurrence took place twenty-three years before, and was the cause of this post being occupied ; since which time, no attack has been made.

This will give some idea of the dangers the officers and men of the Hudson Bay Company have to encounter ; and although it is now safe on the Columbia river, yet there are many parts where they are still subject to these attacks : the voyageurs have a lot of toil and deprivation, yet few men are to be found so cheerful.

Mr. Ogden informed me, that the most experienced voyageur is taken as a pilot for the brigade, and he is the bowman of the leading boat ; which is looked upon as a station of great trust and honour. Each boat has also its bowman, who is considered the first officer and responsible man ; the safety of the boat, in descending rapids particularly, depends upon him and the padroon, who steers the boat. They both use long and large blade-paddles ; and it is surprising how much