

state of the river the Company's boats frequently shoot or descend it, but this is at all times an exploit of great danger. Many fearful accidents have taken place with the most experienced boatmen, who with all their skill could not preserve themselves from being carried into the vortices, drawn under, and destroyed.

Such is the peculiar nature of the rush of waters through the Dalles, that for some minutes the whole will appear quite smooth, gliding onwards as though there were no treachery within its flow, when suddenly the waters will begin to move in extended and slow whirls, gradually increasing in velocity until it narrows itself into almost a funnel shape, when, having drawn towards it all within its reach, it suddenly engulfs the whole, and again resumes its tranquil state.

An awful accident was related to me by Mr. Ogden, of which he was an eye-witness, which will more clearly illustrate the nature of the place.

Mr. Ogden was descending the river in one of the Company's boats with ten Canadian voyageurs, all well experienced in their duties. On arriving at the Dalles, they deemed it practicable to run them, in order to save the portage. Mr. Ogden determined, however, that he would pass the portage on foot, believing, however, the river was in such a state that it was quite safe for the boat to pass down. He was accordingly landed, and ascended the rocks, from which he had a full view of the water beneath, and of the boat in its passage. At first she seemed to skim over the waters like the flight of a bird; but he soon perceived her stop, and the struggle of the oarsmen, together with the anxious shout of the bowman, soon told him that they had encountered the whirl. Strongly they plied their oars, and deep anxiety if not fear was expressed in their movements. They began to move, not forwards, but onwards with the whirl: round they swept with increasing velocity, still struggling to avoid the now evident fate that awaited them: a few more turns, each more rapid than the last, until they reached the centre, when, in an instant, the boat with all her crew disappeared. So short had been the struggle, that it was with difficulty Mr. Ogden could realize that all had perished. Only one body out of the ten was afterwards found at the bottom of the Dalles, torn and mangled by the strife it had gone through.

Mr. Drayton found that as many as half of the Indians had left their fishing. He noticed here, in attempting to make a bargain for canoes to take him as far as the Cascades, the same habit of extortion that was before evinced. In all cases, it seems to be a part of the Indian