

over the landscape. This grass is the natural hay before spoken of, which seems to point out this for a grazing country, though there is a large district destitute of water.

On the 8th, at one o'clock, the party reached the banks of the Columbia, opposite to Okonagan, when a canoe was employed to take them over. This post was in charge of a Canadian by the name of *Le Pratt*; but the whole is now going into rapid decay, as it is only retained as an entrepôt for the deposit of supplies, &c., in connexion with the posts in New Caledonia, as the northern part of this country is called by the Hudson Bay Company. Okonagan lies directly on the route thither, and here they change from land to water transportation. Were it not for the convenience it affords, in this respect, it would not be retained. It is inhabited by two Canadian white men and numerous half-breed women and children, the men having gone down the river with Mr. Ogden. It has, as usual at the posts, an Indian encampment on the outside, but there is no Indian settlement within eight miles, where there is a salmon-fishery. Few skins are obtained here, and the extreme scarcity of game and fur animals is remarkable throughout all this part of Middle Oregon. This is somewhat difficult to account for, as we are well satisfied that there is abundance of food, and that all kinds of cattle would thrive exceedingly in this section, where grass is so abundant.

Okonagan and the old Spokane House, on the river of the same name, (now abandoned,) were the first posts established in this country by the American Company, some twenty-nine years prior to our visit. Falling into the possession of the Northwest Company, they were, on the union of that Company with the Hudson Bay Company, passed over to the latter. Okonagan is situated on a poor, flat, sandy neck, about two miles above the junction of the river of that name with the Columbia. It is a square, picketed in the same manner as those already described, but destitute of bastions, and removed sixty yards from the Columbia. Within the pickets there is a large house for the reception of the Company's officers, consisting of several apartments, and from each end of it two rows of low mud huts run towards the entrance: these serve as offices and dwellings for the trappers and their families. In the centre there is an open space.

French is the language spoken here, as it is at all the other posts of the Company.

Half a mile above the mouth of the Okonagan, it was found to be three hundred feet wide: it is a dull, turbid stream. The Columbia at this place was found to be sixteen hundred feet wide.

Besides the care of the barges for navigating the river, and the