

water, which cause rapids; but there is no perceptible fall, and the barges shoot them without difficulty. By the assistance of some Indians, with two canoes, they crossed the river, and breakfasted on the opposite side. These Indians had a lodge close by, and were in number twelve, the greater part of whom were women and children. Many of the latter, like others they had met with, were secured upon boards, for which purpose, instead of cord, strips of skin were used. These Indians reported that no salmon had been caught, on which account they were living on a kind of carp. They had with them a number of dogs, which are kept about their lodges: these animals have but little to recommend them, for they are ill-shapen, and of a dingy white colour. Of these dogs but little use is made, for they are seldom employed in hunting, and the Indians never eat them; neither are any of them killed, however large the litter of puppies may be. They, however, cost nothing to keep, for they are not fed, except with the offal of fish and birds, which accounts for the wretchedness of their appearance.

Lieutenant Johnson and Mr. Maxwell now determined to pay a visit to the missionaries who were stationed at Chimikaine, distant only half a day's ride. The rest of the party proceeded along the banks of the Columbia to Fort Colville, a post of the Hudson Bay Company, next in importance to Vancouver. While pursuing this object, they lost their way, and were forced to encamp for the night on the banks of the Columbia.

On the 15th, at 4 P. M., they reached Fort Colville, after having experienced some difficulty in riding their Indian horses up to the gate; for the wagons, poultry, pigs, cabins, and other objects of civilization, excited no little alarm to their animals.

In the mean time, Lieutenant Johnson, in company with Mr. Maxwell, proceeded up the Spokane, which, for the first ten miles, has a course of east-southeast. The route passes through much fine scenery, and on the southern side of the river the hills form terraces, clothed with grass, and having a few pines growing upon them. The pines yield an agreeable shade, and the banks offer numerous beautiful sites for dwellings.

The river itself is pretty: its waters are transparent, and it is joined in its course by many bubbling brooks. To judge from the number of sheds for drying salmon, it must abound with that fish. The average width of the stream was about two hundred feet.

After leaving the Spokane, they rode in a northeast direction, over hills covered with pines, and through valleys rich with fine meadows; and, after a ride of thirty-five miles from the mouth of the Spokane,