

reached the missionary station of Chimikaine. Here they learned that neither of the two missionaries, Messrs. Walker and Eels, was at home, being in attendance on a meeting at Wallawalla. Their ladies, however, received the gentlemen with great hospitality, and though living in rough log huts, every thing about them was scrupulously clean; they were without any domestic help, but every thing was attended to that could add to the comfort of their guests. They both, with their families, seemed happy, cheerful, and contented with their situation.

Cornelius, or Bighead, whose native name is Silimxnotylmilakabok, is chief of the Spokane tribe—not by birth, but having gained the station by his shrewdness. With the title, however, he has acquired but little real authority, although he is the most influential of the Flat-head nation; for his commands are often opposed with impunity by the lowest vagabond, and he himself is sometimes personally insulted without fear or danger of punishment. The dignity of rank, therefore, it will be seen, is not looked upon with much respect among these tribes. Cornelius is about sixty years of age, tall and slender, with a dignified carriage; has a thin, wrinkled face, and a far-retreating forehead. He has an expression of intelligence and self-possession, which impresses a visiter very favourably. He is represented as being very pious; and, as far as outward appearances and loud praying go, is certainly entitled to be so considered.

He gives an account of a singular prophecy that was made by one of their medicine-men, some fifty years ago, before they knew any thing of white people, or had heard of them. Cornelius, when about ten years of age, was sleeping in a lodge with a great many people, and was suddenly awakened by his mother, who called out to him that the world was falling to pieces. He then heard a great noise of thunder overhead, and all the people crying out in great terror. Something was falling very thick, which they at first took for snow, but on going out they found it to be dirt: it proved to be ashes, which fell to the depth of six inches, and increased their fears, by causing them to suppose that the end of the world was actually at hand. The medicine-man arose, told them to stop their fear and crying, for the world was not about to fall to pieces. "Soon," said he, "there will come from the rising sun a different kind of men from any you have yet seen, who will bring with them a book, and will teach you every thing, and after that the world will fall to pieces." Although there is not much reliance to be placed in the truth of this story, yet it shows the desire the Indians have to perpetuate the truth; and now that its actual fulfilment, as they say, has come to pass, it has acquired greater