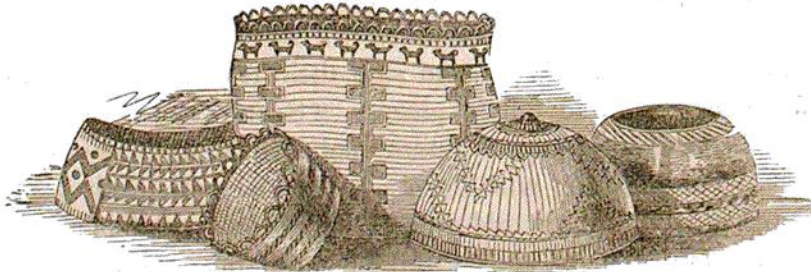


force, and is employed by them as an argument why the tribes should embrace the Christian religion. There is little doubt that the fall of ashes took place, for many traces of such phenomena are to be seen in all parts of the middle section of Oregon;\* but they had knowledge of the whites long before the epoch designated. A proof that the white race was then known to them, may be cited in the person of a half-breed Canadian, who is now living at Colville, who had served under Burgoyne, and been fifty years in this country.† Besides the appearance of the Spaniards, and English under Cook, on the coast, the existence of white men must have become known through the inter-communication of the different nations.

Lieutenant Johnson left the mission the next afternoon for Colville, under the guidance of the son of Cornelius, and travelled through an extensive valley to the north, with hills on either side of from six hundred to one thousand feet in height. This valley is crossed by numerous streamlets and brooks, and appears to have a good and extremely fertile soil. The largest stream passed was one near Colville, on which the Hudson Bay Company have their grist-mill: this is about fifty feet wide. Within ten miles of the fort, the house of the Company's storekeeper was passed, and near to it is found a species of white chalk or pigment, which is much used at the fort instead of the common lime whitewash, from which it is scarcely distinguishable. They reached Fort Colville late in the afternoon, and were all soon made to forget the fatigues of the journey by the kind attentions of Messrs. M'Donald and Maxwell, who had charge of the post.

\* Within the last year, the craters on the top of Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helen's have been in activity.

† This man is still hale and hearty, though pretty much of a reprobate. His story seemed to be credited by the officers of the Company at Fort Colville.



INDIAN BASKETS OF OREGON.