

After leaving the fort, they pursued a southerly direction, for the missionary station of Chimikaine. This is called after the name of the plain in which it is situated, which is translated "The Plain of Springs," from the fact that, a few miles above the mission station, in the valley, the streams lose themselves in the earth, and after passing under ground for about five miles, burst out again in springs.

At the time of their visit to the Kettle Falls, the Indians were employed in spearing the salmon, which is almost the only mode used for taking them during the first of the season. In this they are very expert; and to see an Indian thus engaged, is an interesting sight. He stands on the edge of the foaming pool, with his spear poised and pointed, his body in constant and graceful motion, and his eye intent upon his object. When he discovers a fish within reach, he instantly darts the spear with unerring aim, and secures his prize.

They arrived at the station at a convenient hour, and found that the two gentlemen of the mission had returned, and now united with their wives in as warm a reception as the latter had given them on a former occasion.

The ladies of this mission, with some others, had travelled across the Rocky Mountains from the United States. The missionaries had brought cattle with them, and had been now settled here for two years. I understood that their presence had been not only of much advantage to the Indians, who had profited somewhat by their example, but also in a greater degree to the officers of the Hudson Bay Company, by affording them an opportunity of educating their children, and instructing them in the art of the dairy.

According to Mr. Eels, the Indians are glad to have whites settle among them, that they may procure by that means the "fine things" which they so much covet. The conclusion they come to is, the more the whites come the more they must receive. They are particularly partial to the Bostons, and frequently refer back to the time when there was rivalry in the trade.

The missionaries represent the Indians as being very easily actuated by impulses, and impatient of restraint; but that, though quick-tempered, they are not sullen: a revengeful spirit is always discouraged,—indeed it is esteemed a merit to be patient under an injury. Public opinion has a very powerful influence upon them, and few savages are more susceptible of ridicule, to the utterance of which their language is peculiarly adapted. Although there is but little government in families, still they are well behaved; and it is proverbial that they seldom quarrel among themselves. Generosity and wealth are the two qualifications that give most consequence; after these, comes noble blood.