

a grave three feet deep, which is surrounded and covered with stones and sticks, to prevent the wolves getting at it.

Widows are not allowed to change their dress for a whole year.

The men may take and put away their wives at pleasure, and both parties may marry again. The greatest requisite sought for in a wife is her capability of providing food. Polygamy was and is still practised. Where this is the case, or where many families reside in the same lodge, each family or wife has a separate fire. In marriages, permission is first asked of the chief, then the consent of the parents is sought for, and afterwards that of the intended. If she object, it is conclusive; if acceptance takes place, the groom gives from one to five horses to the bride's parents, they have a pow-wow, and the marriage is concluded. They are often espoused in infancy, but it is not considered as binding on either side. The squaws sometimes make proposals to the men. In other cases, young girls are contracted for, and the price paid down, some years in advance of the marriageable age.

The missionaries had, as I understood, adopted the following rule in relation to these connexions: all who already had wives were required to maintain them, but no new ones were to be taken. In consequence of this regulation, there have been no new instances of polygamy.

The number of Indians that are supposed to speak dialects of the Flathead language, is thought by the missionaries to be about five thousand. Their weapons have been bows and arrows, which they still use for small game: the arrows have iron points, but they use guns in preference for killing the larger animals.

On the 21st of June, at 3 P. M., the party left the mission, being accompanied on their way several miles by Mr. and Mrs. Walker. After riding ten miles in a southerly direction, they reached the Spokane river, and found it but one hundred feet wide, with a current of three and a half miles an hour. They swam their horses across, and passed over themselves and luggage in a canoe, which is always left at this point, to ferry persons over.

The formation of the country was now lava or trap, of which rock the latitude of 48° N. seems to be the limit, after which it gives place to granite. This was found to be the case also in the Straits of Fuca, where the same parallel is the dividing line of the two rocks; and, as far as our opportunities and information went, there seems to be but little doubt that this line extends from the sea-coast to the Rocky Mountains. We may, therefore, confidently state, that the whole portion of the Oregon Territory to the south of the Spokane, is of