

igneous formation: it is comparatively level, and offers a fine example of the old-fashioned flinty trap.

The tract of country from the mission to the Spokane is rather sterile, and but thinly wooded, with spruce, larch, and pine, neither of which is of great size. The banks or margin of the river, for some distance on each side, is formed of sand and gravel, with a few alder and willow bushes. The old chief, Bighead, joined the party here.

On the 22d, they travelled thirty miles in an east-northeasterly direction, from the Spokane. The country they passed over would be called hilly, with lakes and open glades intervening: the soil was poor, with sand and stones; a few scattered pines were seen on the hills, and around the lakes were cotton-wood and willow bushes.

On the 23d, after travelling five miles, they reached a camp of Spokane Indians, in number about three hundred, at the entrance of a fine meadow, where they had a number of horses feeding, while they were procuring the cammass-root. The number of lodges was twenty, some of which were conical, and of buffalo-skins. With this party were an Indian and a Canadian Frenchman, both of whom spoke English intelligibly. As the party entered the camp, a stout savage seized one of the horses, which he claimed as having belonged to him, and which he said had been stolen. Evidence was subsequently produced that the fellow had lost the horse by gambling, of which all these Indians are notoriously fond.

The horse had been purchased near Colville, for a musket. The party remonstrated against this violent seizure, through the Canadian, upon which the Indian relinquished the bridle, walked directly up to his lodge, loaded his rifle, and was about to shoot either horse or rider. Two of the gentlemen instantly stepped up to him, with their guns ready, telling him if he pointed his gun at any one, they would blow his brains out. On this he explained that his intention was to shoot the horse, but he was now afraid to do this; and the affair was settled by a few presents. The party at once passed quietly through the camp, and were glad to be rid of such troublesome neighbours.

In the afternoon, they passed through a rich and fertile valley, running in a southwest and northeast direction, in which the horses sank in clover up to their knees; and this day they made twenty-eight miles.

Among the beasts belonging to our party, was a spotted horse, which the Indians were extremely desirous of procuring, as it was a favourite kind with them; but their offers did not prove equivalent to his value. On the other hand, the party succeeded in purchasing a horse from the Indians, which they much required, but which after-