

wards turned out to belong to the Hudson Bay Company, having been stolen from them. Horses with the Indians are considered the sign of wealth, and are prized accordingly. One of their great amusements is horse-racing, in which their gambling propensities have full sway. Notwithstanding that horses are the great source of contention and difficulty between the whites and Indians, it is said that little or none occurs between themselves, and that they are not prone to commit depredations on each other. This may be owing to the apprehension that the difficulty would not only involve the individual, but the whole tribe, which is a necessary consequence among uncivilized people.

Several of the Indians at the camp through which they passed, were well dressed in robes obtained by themselves from the buffaloes; for these Indians, as well as others from the Oregon, near the coast, visit the buffalo-grounds annually.

The Indian, who spoke good English, stated that he had been five years at the white man's settlement. On his return he was made chief, and at that time his authority was great in the tribe; but now, owing to his propensity for gambling, he has lost all his influence.

On the 24th, they passed through a fine rolling prairie country, producing very fine pasture, and being well watered, though destitute of wood. The distance made to-day was thirty miles. The plants seen were *Convolvulus*, *Frasera*, *Habenaria*, *Calochortus*, *Baptisia*, and *Trifolium*: this last is a good plant for cattle.

During the day, they met a party of Indians travelling, with abundance of spare horses, and in this case they were carrying even their tent-poles, with which one of their horses was loaded: a proof that underwood of the description used is scarce in the country. Within thirty miles of Lapwai, the mission station on the Kooskooskee, they crossed a small tributary of the Snake river, thirty feet wide and two deep. It was very winding, and its general course was southwest. About twenty miles distant, in a south-southeast direction, they discovered a high snowy peak, which is situated near the Grande Ronde, and is the highest point of what is termed the Blue Ridge. On its summit the snow remains all the year round.

Beyond the Snake or Lewis river, was a long even-topped ridge, wooded on its upper parts, and covered with snow. This is the mountain which Mr. Drayton ascended near the Wallawalla. From the northwest, it has the appearance of an extensive and elevated table-land.

On the 25th, about noon, they reached the Kooskooskee, which is two thousand feet below the plain they had been travelling on. It is here eight hundred feet wide, and a powerful stream. Lewis and Clarke fell upon this river about forty-five miles above this place, and it is not