

meat to serve him through the winter. All these lots were kept in good order, and several had good mud houses on them. The great endeavour of Mr. Spalding is to induce the Indians to give up their roving mode of life, and to settle down and cultivate the soil; and in this he is succeeding admirably. He shows admirable tact and skill, together with untiring industry and perseverance in the prosecution of his labours as a missionary; and he appears to be determined to leave nothing undone that one person alone can perform. In the winter, his time and that of his wife is devoted to teaching, at which season their school is much enlarged.

On their way, they fell in with some half-breeds, going to hunt buffalo. Among them there were four brothers, all fine-looking young men, and very much alike. Many of the Indians, as has before been remarked, visit the buffalo-grounds. These have been constantly changing, and, within the memory of many of the hunters, their limits have been very much circumscribed. From the accounts we received, these animals are not now found west of the Portneuf river, and their range has been materially changed since the arrival of the whites. Instead now of migrating to the south during the winter, they are reported as seeking a more northern clime, and are now found as far north as  $64^{\circ}$ : four degrees farther in that direction than their former range. This abandonment of their feeding-grounds is unknown in any other American animal, and may forebode their extinction at no very distant day.

At 3 P. M., after travelling fifteen miles, they reached the banks of the Snake river, at the forks. On their way down the Kooskooskee, they had met with numerous herds of horses belonging to the Indians; and here they found the owners, consisting of about one hundred and fifty persons. There was but one building, which was of a circular form and a hundred feet in diameter. It was built of rails or rough joists set on end, which supported a roof of the same material, and served the double purpose of sheltering the inhabitants and drying their fish. The different families were arranged around the walls in the interior. These Indians paid no attention to our party while passing, but soon after sent up two canoes, to ferry them and their luggage over the river; which being finished, they went away without demanding any thing for their services, and exhibiting a sort of independence, characteristic of this race when they think themselves well off or rich.

The party crossed the Snake river about a mile above its junction with the Kooskooskee: its breadth here was seven hundred and fifty feet, and its banks were destitute of trees and bushes. The Snake