

some of them, and after the probation, they deem themselves capable of enduring both heat and cold, of sustaining fatigue, of outrunning horses, pursuing game, and overcoming their enemies. If this is neglected to be performed annually, they believe that the system becomes easily fatigued, and Wawish is again their master.

This treatment generally begins at the age of eighteen, and is only discontinued when they have a large family, or have passed the most active age by reaching that of forty years; some, however, from a feeling of pride, are said to continue it much beyond this period.

The officers at Wallawalla mentioned, that some of the Indians had remarkable powers of undergoing fatigue, and instanced the case of one who performed the journey from Dr. Whitman's mission-house to the forks of the Clearwater, a distance of one hundred miles, between morning and sunset. This man is in the habit of performing this treatment on himself annually.

The Indians around Lapwai subsist for the most part upon fish, roots, and berries: the latter they make into cakes; moss is also eaten by them. Half of these Indians usually make a trip to the buffalo country for three months, by which means they are supplied with the flesh of that animal.

The school at the station has in winter about five hundred scholars, but in the summer not one-tenth of that number attend. Our gentlemen heard some of the pupils read. Only two are converts to Christianity, the principal chief and another; eight or ten, however, are reported as showing signs of piety.

The men are industrious, for Indians. The mission have a saw-mill at this place, capable of sawing three thousand feet per day.

The usual games of the Indians, which have been already described, are played here. The wages for the performance of any task are paid for in clothing, blankets, horses, &c.

Their salmon-fishing is conducted with much industry, and lasts from daylight until ten o'clock at night. Supper is their principal meal.

The scalps of enemies are taken in war, and the war-dance is always performed.

Girls are offered as wives to the young men by the parents: the ties of marriage are very loose, and wives are put away at pleasure. This privilege is also allowed to the women, which places the two sexes much more on a par than among the tribes west of the mountains.

The medicine men and women are much in repute here. Before any sorcery or divination is performed, they retire to the mountains for several days, where they fast, and where they pretend to have an