

One cause of this discrepancy may arise from the length of the Indian words, which are always abbreviated in talking. According to Dr. Whitman, the Indians of one tribe very soon pick up the language of another. He also stated that the Nez Percé dialect is fast gaining upon that of Wallawalla; and he thinks that the rising generation are inclined to a more general language.

On the 4th of July, they left the fort and crossed the river. The Columbia is here an imposing stream, and its waters flow in a rapid and powerful current. Mr. M'Lean's kindness and attention were similar to that already met with, and he provided them with the necessary horses, provisions, &c.

On the maps of the Oregon Territory, opposite Wallawalla, a volcanic mountain has been exhibited; but none exists here, nor on inquiry could any information be obtained of any such object in the country around.

The party now pursued the route up the river, and in two hours reached the Yakima, up whose valley they passed, encamping after making twenty-five miles. The country was rolling, and might be termed sandy and barren.

Mount St. Helen's, with its snow-capped top, was seen at a great distance to the west.

On the 5th, they continued their route, and at midday were overtaken by an Indian, with a note informing them of the arrival of Mr. Drayton at Wallawalla with the brigade. This was quick travelling for news in Oregon; for so slow is it usually carried, that our party were the first to bring the news of the arrival and operations of the squadron in Oregon. This intelligence had not previously reached Wallawalla, although it is considered to be on the direct post-route to the interior, notwithstanding we had been in the country nearly two months. The news of the murder of Mr. Black, in New Caledonia, was nearly a year in reaching some points on the coast.

This was one of the warmest days they had experienced, and the thermometer under the shade of a canopy stood at 108°. At a short distance from the place where they stopped was a small hut, composed of a few branches and reeds, which was thought to be barely sufficient to contain a sheep; yet under it were four generations of human beings, all females, seated in a posture, which, to whites, would have been impracticable. They had just procured their subsistence for the day, and their meal consisted of the berries of the dogwood. The scene was not calculated to impress one very favourably with savage life. The oldest of these had the cartilage of the nose pierced, but