

themselves with a blanket, slept as sound as if on beds of down. I happened to see them arising in the morning, and they appeared refreshed and perfectly content, although it had rained hard all night.

These men were exceedingly fond of rum, the hope of obtaining which, when the daily ration was served out, was the great inducement that led them to accompany our parties.

These two were good specimens of the Flathead Indians, and I was therefore pleased at having an opportunity of sketching them with the camera lucida, of which sketches the cuts on the opposite page are copies.

Before I reached Astoria, Captain Varney, of the brig Thomas H. Perkins, had proposed to sell his vessel to the government, provided he could arrange his affairs with Dr. M'Laughlin. I now learned that Dr. M'Laughlin had arrived at Astoria, for which place I set out in the afternoon, in company with Captain Hudson. We embarked in the tender, but after proceeding some distance, we found it impossible to reach Astoria. We therefore returned to Baker's Bay, which we had some difficulty in reaching.

The next day we succeeded in reaching Astoria, and found that the arrangements for the purchase of the brig could be effected, and I therefore bought her for the United States for nine thousand dollars, after having her thoroughly examined by the carpenters of the squadron. On taking possession of this brig, I changed her name to that of "the Oregon."

This acquisition released me from much anxiety, by providing accommodations for the crew of the Peacock, and at the same time affording a suitable vessel to continue the operations of the squadron. Captain Hudson took charge of the Oregon, and the alterations necessary to adapt her for this service were at once commenced. After making these arrangements, Dr. M'Laughlin departed for Vancouver. He gave a passage to Messrs. Hale and Dana, Messrs. Peale and Rich having previously gone up the river. These gentlemen had already visited the country around the mouth of the Columbia, every opportunity having been afforded them by Captain Hudson. Several of the officers visited the mountain ranges, but did not succeed in ascending the highest peaks.

During the occupation of Astoria by the Expedition, the place became quite civilized-looking, in comparison to what it was on my first arrival, and a mart for all the commodities of the country. Besides our own men, there were many Indians to be seen lounging and moving about, seeking employment, or with some small articles to sell.

Short excursions were made by many of us in the vicinity, and one