

her up with casks, which, fortunately, we had at hand, on board the Oregon. It now became necessary to float her off, in order to avoid a second failure. We therefore had recourse to passing her chain cable under her bottom, to which a line of casks was lashed on the weather side, at the same time the launch was suspended as a weight from her masthead to preserve her in the same position. The hawsers that had been landed at Astoria by our store-vessels were sent for and attached to the brig's anchors, and so placed as to haul her at once into the deepest water and through the narrow pass. When all was prepared, a strong wind arose from the seaward, and caused a swell which broke adrift some of the casks, leaving sufficient, however, to float her before high water.

I was much relieved when I saw her again float, for I had felt not a little anxious lest in the drifting sands of the river she might have formed a bed, which would have placed it out of our power to get her off before the next spring tides, and would have compelled us to discharge all her guns, &c. Although this would have been attended with a great deal of trouble, it would have been of little consequence compared with the loss of time, which we could ill afford to spare.

After getting her off, we ran up the river a few miles, and anchored just below the Pillar Rock, and opposite to Waikaikum. Waikaikum belongs to a chief named Skamakewea, and is a large lodge, picketed around with planks.

Mr. Hale passed two days there, and obtained much interesting information from him relative to his tribe. This chief formerly had a large tribe under him, but since the year 1830 the fever has destroyed them nearly all. The portion of this country more immediately affected by this scourge, extends along the banks of the river from the ocean to the Cascades; but that part of it which is within the influence of the ocean tides, is the least subject to its ravages. When an Indian contracts this disease, he seldom recovers, for the treatment he goes through is sufficient to kill a person in good health.

Pillar Rock is called by the Indians Taluaptea, after the name of a chief, who in bygone days lived at the falls of the Columbia, and who, having incurred the displeasure of their spirit, called Talapos, was turned into a rock, and placed where he would be washed by the waters of the great river. The rock is twenty-five feet high, and only ten feet square at its top: it is composed of conglomerate or pudding-stone, and is fast crumbling to pieces. I found great difficulty in ascending it.

The next morning, in proceeding up the river to carry on the