

The Columbia river was now very different in appearance from what it had been in the month of June. The stream was confined within its narrowest limits, and was nineteen feet below high-water mark.

The Indians were now encamped on the strands, over which the volume of water had rushed, in its swollen state, with irresistible force. Vancouver exhibited the aspect of an extensive farming establishment, with its well-stored granaries, stacks of grain, &c. All showed that the crops had been plentiful, and gave ample proof of the industry and success of agriculture.

Soon after the wreck of the Peacock, Captain Hudson, hearing that Dr. M'Laughlin was in want of hands to aid him in the harvest, despatched the Kanakas belonging to the Peacock up to Vancouver, to assist in gathering it. It afforded some little pleasure to contribute this aid, and thus in some small degree to repay the attentions and kindness of the Company's officers.

While at Vancouver, my time was taken up by the astronomic and magnetic observations. The former gave its position in longitude $122^{\circ} 39' 34.6''$ W., and latitude $45^{\circ} 36' 53''$ N.

Having understood, from the gentlemen at Vancouver, that both Mr. David Douglas and Captain Belcher had found some discrepancies in their magnetic observations, which were quite unaccountable; and as they had experimented within the fort, I determined to make mine in my tent, on the banks of the river, where no apparent local attraction existed. There were, notwithstanding, some irregularities which I could not account for.

While I was thus engaged, Captain Hudson carried on the repairs of the Oregon with great rapidity. The articles necessary for this purpose which we ourselves were not able to supply, were cheerfully furnished us, at reasonable prices, from the stores and workshops of the Company. Indeed, nothing could exceed the kind attentions that were lavished upon us; and the moment we expressed a desire, it was immediately complied with.

On the 1st of September, Passed Midshipmen Eld and Colvocoressis, with Mr. Brackenridge and party, arrived. Orders were immediately given for them to join Lieutenant Emmons's party, on the Willamette; and they were finally despatched on the tour through to California.

It will be remembered that Passed Midshipmen Eld and Colvocoressis were ordered to make a journey through the Chickeeles country, to Gray's Harbour, just as the ship was getting under way from Nisqually, and that circumstances rendered their departure more hurried than it was desirable it should be. But through the kindness of Mr. Anderson