

or no regard for the promises they made, or the engagements they entered into. This feature of character proceeds both from a desire to obtain more money, and a want of stability of purpose. Many difficulties were encountered by him in consequence of the change of his route to California, which many of those who were to have accompanied him were unwilling to undertake. These were the very best men we had engaged. Every kind of embarrassment seemed to come upon him at once: delays and disappointments occurred every day; sickness overtook the party; rumours were circulated of danger from the Indians, who it was said were determined to oppose the party and cut it off. Some of the settlers refused to re-engage, because their crops required attention, and their harvest might be lost; others said that they could not leave their families for so long a time; and amidst these various sources of delay, the animals strayed away, or were carried off. The whole, finally, resolved itself into a demand for higher wages.

Lieutenant Emmons, though exceedingly annoyed by all these difficulties, showed himself fully equal to them, and by patience and perseverance overcame them all. Mr. Rodgers, whom I had designated as the provider of the party, and in whom I was told great reliance could be placed, was not exactly suited to such a task, being connected more or less with the inhabitants of the valley, and about to become one of the residents; he also was soon unable to attend to business on account of sickness: before the organization of the second party, therefore, he was discharged and paid off. At this point I shall leave the narrative of the operations of the over-land party, until I come down to the date when they again joined me at San Francisco.

The observations and surveys in the neighbourhood of Vancouver being finished, we prepared for our departure. The weather during our stay had been delightful, and we enjoyed ourselves very much in the company of Dr. M'Laughlin, Mr. Douglass, and the officers of the Hudson Bay Company.

I have before spoken of their attentions, but I feel that my expressions are few in comparison with the numerous kindnesses we all received. Even Billy Bruce the gardener made us his debtor, by sending us repeatedly some of the fine fruit and vegetables grown under his care. I have endeavoured to repay him, by sending him seeds; but the route is so long and circuitous, that it is questionable whether they ever arrive, and when they come to hand, if I shall not be classed by him with those who have sent "trash" to Vancouver, for him to waste his time and experience on, in attempting to cultivate.