

The middle section is, on the contrary, exceedingly dry, and the temperature more changeable, the variations being great and sudden. The mercury has been known to fall as low as -18° in the winter, and to rise as high as 108° in the shade, in summer. In Appendix XIII., Vol. IV., will be found a register of the temperature, kept at one of the missionary stations, Lapwai, on the Kooskooskee. It may be said to be on the eastern border of the middle section.

The eastern section has an exceedingly variable climate: it fluctuates from cold to hot in a few hours, ranging through fifty or sixty degrees of temperature; yet, from the accounts I have, from very respectable authority, the cold is by no means severe for any length of time. The Rev. Mr. Smith, who was two years there, assured me that the cattle and horses required no other food than what they could pick up, the natural hay before spoken of being sufficient for their support.

The climate throughout Oregon is thought to be salubrious for the white race; and was considered so by the Indians, prior to the year 1830, when the ague and fever, or any disease resembling it, was not known to exist. The Indians fully believe, to this day, that Captain Dominis introduced the disease in 1830. Since that time, it has committed frightful ravages among them; not so much, perhaps, from the violence of the disease itself, as the manner in which they treat it. It was not until quite lately that they were willing to be treated after our mode, and they still in many cases prefer the incantations and practices of the medicine-man.

I satisfied myself that the accounts given of the depopulation of this country are not exaggerated; for places were pointed out to me where dwelt whole tribes, that have been entirely swept off; and, during the time of the greatest mortality, the shores of the river were strewed with the dead and dying. This disease occurs, it is said, semi-annually, and in the case of foreigners, it is more mild at each succeeding attack.

Owing to the above causes, the population is much less than I expected to find it. I made every exertion to obtain correct information, and believe that at the time of our visit, the following was very nearly the truth, viz.:

Vancouver and Washington Island,	5,000
From latitude 50° to 54° N., on the main,	2,000
Penn's Cove, Whidby's Island, including the main land (Sachet tribe,)	650
Hood's Canal (Suquamish and Toando tribes),	500
Birch Bay,	300
Fraser's River,	500
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	8,950