

as we did. The Cowlitz is not navigable, except at high water during the spring and fall; and even then it is difficult to ascend, on account of the strength of its current.

We had now overtaken the sounding parties, and, aided by the boats of the brig, were enabled to push the work towards a close. Having reached the influence of the tide below Oak Point, all fears of the ague and fever vanished: we had indeed been extremely fortunate in exemption from this disease, and only those suffered from its attacks who had been before exposed. Those affected belonged chiefly to the Peacock, and the larger portion were Sandwich Islanders. The crew of the Porpoise were generally exempt from it: all recovered from the slight attacks under a simple treatment. I felt not a little satisfaction at disappointing the knowing ones, who had prognosticated the certainty of my having all hands sick and dying by attempting the survey in the unhealthy season. When we reached Astoria, we had nearly all hands on duty.

On the 26th, we had again reached Katalamet Point, the lower end of Puget Island. The brig passed down the usual channel on the south side, while I surveyed the northern passage. The latter is about four miles in length.

Puget Island affords no land fit for cultivation, and during the season of freshets is overflowed. It is fringed around its borders with cottonwood, willow, pine, and hazel, &c.; but it may be considered valueless.

At this anchorage I was joined by Michel La Framboise, who brought a supply of fresh beef for the crew, which they were in much need of. Since I had first seen Michel, I had learned more of his history and the cause which led him to complain of a want of advancement. I regret to say, that, like too many others, he ought to look to himself as the cause of his misfortune, instead of indulging in complaints.

He confirmed much of the information I had received, and gave me full statements of the population, which I found to agree with what he had already imparted to officers belonging to the Company, as well as the Expedition.

I questioned him relative to the stories respecting the shooting of Indians, on the route to and from California, and he told me they had no battles, but said it was necessary to keep them always at a distance. On my repeating the question, whether the reports we had heard of several being killed during the late expedition were true, he, Frenchman-like, shrugged his shoulders and answered: "Ah, monsieur, ils sont des mauvaises gens: il faut en prendre garde et tirer sur eux quelquefois."

On the 29th of September we again reached the Pillar Rock, and on