

Lieutenant Emmons with some bear and deer skins, which several of the party were in want of to make into shirts and trousers; Dr. McLaughlin having kindly sent Lieutenant Emmons, before he left the Willamette, a letter to his agent, desiring that he would afford the party all the assistance in his power.

Lieutenant Emmons and Mr. Agate were accommodated in the store, with beds made of blankets. After arranging them, Mr. Gangriere wished them good night, locked the door, put the key in his pocket, and went to his lodgings. In the morning, at daylight, they were released.

The day was cold, damp, and foggy, preventing them from seeing any distance from the fort. The river is here one hundred and twenty yards wide, quite rapid, filled with rocks, and only navigable for canoes. The soil in the vicinity is very good, producing plentiful crops of corn, wheat, and potatoes. In the garden attached to the fort, are grown all the common vegetables of the United States, with melons, both water and musk. Cattle are said to thrive well.

In the morning it was found that a number of the Indians had departed, which relieved the agent's fears for himself, but increased those for our party. He was satisfied that it was too small in number to pass safely through, or overcome the resistance the Indians had prepared to oppose to them.

Few of these men seem to know the reason of the whites meeting with so few mishaps in passing through an apparently hostile country; and many deem that it is owing to their own skill and prowess. The truth is, that as soon as the Indians have traded with the whites, and become dependent on them for supplies, thenceforward they can be easily controlled. If disposed to be hostile, the fort at Umpqua would offer no resistance to their attack; but they are aware that all their supplies of ammunition, tobacco, blankets, and other articles of necessity, would be at once cut off; which would reduce them to great distress. They also know, that in all probability they would receive a severe chastisement for such aggression, from an armed force that would forthwith be sent among them. The self-interest of the Indians is, therefore, the true safeguard of the white traders.

After effecting the exchange of horses, they discovered that two of those they had hobbled the evening before had escaped; after a three hours' search, they were finally found on the back-trail, several miles from the fort. About noon they set out on their return, having under their escort the Indian wife of the agent, who wished to visit the camp to consult the doctor. Their fresh horses enabled them to get over the bad road with less difficulty than they had found on their way to the fort.