

descended to another plain, where the soil was a fine loam. The prairies were on fire across their path, and had without doubt been lighted by the Indians to distress our party. The fires were by no means violent, the flames passing but slowly over the ground, and being only a few inches high.

They encamped on Billey's Creek, named after a man who had been killed here by a grisly bear, whilst passing through with a party belonging to the Company. Large game was seen in abundance, and Guardipii brought in an elk as large as a good-sized horse.

On the 19th, Burrows and his squaw, who had the night before made up their minds to leave the party, determined to continue with it. Lieutenant Emmons, in order to avoid any chance of an encounter, now deviated from the direct road, and took the upper ford or pass across the Umpqua, as he had every reason to believe that the Indians had made preparations at the lower one to obstruct his passage. About noon they reached the north fork of the Umpqua, and succeeded in fording it without accident, though they experienced some difficulty in consequence of its rapid current and uneven slippery bottom. Its breadth is about eighty yards, between banks from fifteen to twenty feet high; its depth varies from one to five feet.

As many of the party were very unwell, Lieutenant Emmons determined to halt, and the party encamped in a beautiful oak grove. With the geological features of the country, the botany had also changed; and this was also found to be the case with the animals. A new shrub was met with, resembling the shrubby geranium of Hawaii. A beautiful laurel (*Laurus ptolemii*), with fragrant leaves; a *Ceanothus*, with beautiful sky-blue flowers of delightful fragrance; a tobacco plant (*Nicotiana*), of fetid odour, with white flowers. For further information, I must refer to the Botanical Report.

On the Umpqua, the first grisly bears were seen; here also the white-tailed deer was lost sight of, and the black-tailed species met with. Elk were seen in great numbers.

Two Indians made their appearance on the opposite bank of the river, and were desirous of coming into the camp; but deeming that their object was to spy out the strength of the party, it was thought more prudent not to permit this; they were accordingly motioned off. At this encampment, the horses fared badly; for it became necessary to fetter them to prevent them from being stolen, as these Indians are notorious thieves.

On the 20th, they resumed their route at an early hour, and passed, during the day, through valleys and over narrow plains, that afforded good pasturage for cattle. In the course of two hours, they reached