

JOURNAL OF JOHN H. FROST, 1840-43

Edited by NELLIE B. PIPES

(In four parts, part IV)¹

[AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1841.] We crossed the Yam-hill, and the Yamhill creek, and here in the thicket which skirted the creek, a little calf belonging to Br. S.[mith] was left, and this we supposed but an introduction to our losses. After we crossed the creek we camped for the night, and were obliged to keep a watch all night to prevent the cattle from returning. In the morning we set out again and were joined by Wawanahpah and his family. Our party now consisted of nine men. We took the trail leading to Na-Cheesno laying on the coast to the south of Nea-Stocka. This way to the coast being, according to description, much the best. About sun set we camped, being yet in the Valley. During the day we met with another misfortune. The pack turning on a horse belonging to Mr. Tibits, a large axe which was lashed on the top of the pack cut her in the ankle of the hind foot. From this wound the blood poured very fast, and we were obliged to leave her and her colt. The mare died and the colt was taken back to Walamette.

The next morning we set out again, and during that day we crossed a part of the mountains, but when we arrived at our camping place, it being yet early in the day, we discovered that two of our pack horses and my mare and colt were missing. Br. S., Wallace and myself returned and searched until night to no purpose. We held a council, when we returned to the camp, and decided that Wawanahpah and myself should

¹The preceding installment of this journal, published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, September, 1934, recounts the trip of Frost, Methodist missionary, and Solomon H. Smith, from the station at Clatsop Plains to the Willamette mission, through country never before traveled by white men. After getting supplies and cattle for the Clatsop settlement, they began the return journey, accompanied by Calvin Tibbetts. The present chapter relates to this return journey and to the affairs at Clatsop until Frost's departure in November, 1843. Parts I and II of the journal were printed in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, March and June, 1934. As in the September number, the geographic points have been identified by Mr. Lewis A. McArthur.

go back the next morning in search of the horses, and the rest of the party should proceed with the Band to the coast where they would wait our arrival.

Accordingly the next morning very early Wawanahpah & myself returned, and our companions proceeded onward.

We succeeded in finding the horses, took the trail and hastened to overtake our companions, which we effected in the afternoon having but one ridge more to cross before we reached the coast. Having had a wearisome and anxious day; but having succeeded in finding the horses with their packs all safe, and discovering the party and whole band, as I supposed, in safety, I flattered myself that I should rest in quietness that night. But we had no sooner come up with camp than I was accosted by Br. Smith saying "More bad luck today." This struck me all aback, and on enquiring what had been the difficulty. He said that a cow and calf were missing. Hereupon I looked over the band and found the missing was my best cow and calf. This was too much. I fretted and stormed for some time, but we finely sought out a good place to camp, took our supper, set our watch and lay down to sleep. By this time my feelings had become somewhat calm, and it was not long before I forgot all my trouble, and slept soundly until morning.

The next morning we were obliged to cross a river, which we effected without much difficulty. Here we fell in with "Kilches" the Kilimuke chief, and a small band of his warriors. Kilches is the bitter enemy of Kotata the Clatsop chief, and had been represented to us as a fierce, warlike chieftian. But after the settlement of a difficulty which had existed for sometime between him and Wawanahpah, he agreed to assist us in crossing his country, by supplying us with canoes with which to cross the streams &c. And be it remembered that he fulfilled his engagement to the letter.

After we crossed the river, we had to encounter a ridge or mountainous cape putting down into the ocean. And a more difficult one was never crossed with a band of cattle and horses. But we effected the passage, by sweating and bawling, and whipping, before sunset, when we reached the beach and camped for the night. Here an indian told me that another

indian had stolen a blanket which had fallen from one of our horses; but when I accused the culprit with the theft he denied it roundly, saying the other was a great liar. I went to the Chief, however, and informed him of the affair, when after a few words among themselves the old chief told me to follow him and he would show me where the blanket was. I followed him, and after going about half mile, he kicked over some sand and sticks and hauled out the Blanket, and with the face of the most righteous man in the world, asked me for something for finding the blanket. And although the old rascal deserved a good flogging, I told him that the man to whom the blanket belonged would give him something. The blanket belonged to Wallace, and I told him that he must give the old fellow some ammunition for stealing his blanket.

Wallace thought this rather a hard case, but as we were dependant on the indians for many favours while crossing their country, he finely gave him a few charges of ammunition which satisfied him very well.

Here we slept very quietly and in the early part of the next day, crossed the river at Nea-Stocka, and before sunset we crossed the river, where I was ferried over by Chano and his old white horse on our way to Willamette, and here we camped.

The next day we crossed another Cape where I was near loosing my life by the bad conduct of Wallace's old pack horse. We reached the beach again in the afternoon and proceeded until we reached the river where, if you remember, the Indian was making his canoe on our outward voyage. This was the widest river we had to cross, and which had always been a dread to me. But we succeeded with some difficulty in crossing all over in safety. Here we camped for the night.

The next day we crossed another ridge and came to the place where we fell in with Chano. This was considered by Br. Smith to be the most difficult part of our journey, as we should be obliged to cross the river six times, and between each crossing place it was miry, which rendered it difficult for our band of cattle to pass.

The stream, out of which I assisted in getting Chano's old horse, must be crossed at high tide, as the banks were steep and

miry. When the tide served, we endeavoured to force our horses across, and succeeded with two or three when one mired on the opposite bank while endeavouring to effect a landing, and before we succeeded in getting her out the tide was too low for any more to cross. And it would not be high tide again until in the night, and as we did not like to be detained we bridged the creek with brush, and crossed all over in safety, and proceeded a short distance and crossed again, and then camped for the night. Here we obtained an abundant supply of fresh salmon and sallal buries.

The next day we passed the residence of Kilches crossed the river for the last time, bid adieu to Chano & proceeded to the place around the bay where we kept the first watch on our outward voyage.

The indians told us that the tide was sufficiently low to pass round the point which we desired to effect;² but when we arrived at the point we found it impossible to pass and were obliged to turn back and camp at the Indian lodges. Here we obtained plenty of elk, and shell fish. And here we found Kotata with his warriors, having come out on a trading excursion, &c. This was no disadvantage to us, for they afterwards rendered us some assistance in crossing the last river which was yet ahead of us, and also in driving our cattle.

The next day we set out again, and crossed the last river,³ and reached the foot of Neakarny.⁴ It was yet early in the day, but we determined to rest ourselves, dry our clothes, and refresh our cattle until the next morning before we attempted crossing the mountain before us which had formed so very important an item in our way to the Walamette.

The next morning was foggy, so much so, that the top of the mountain was invisible. But having determined our course we got all things in readiness and set out. I took the lead and we commenced the ascent. And although it was steep, yet we crossed with less difficulty than we had met with in crossing any previous mountain.

²In the vicinity of Barview.

³Nehalem River.

⁴Neahkahnne.

So although we had gazed upon the place where we had camped in the ravine with dread, viewed the place where Lewis' trowsers fared so badly, and thought that our difficulties would only be increased in recrossing because of our large band of horses and cattle, we were obliged to pronounce Neakarny not so bad after all. We descended this mountain and bid it, I hope, an everlasting adieu. We now reached the beach at the place where we captured the fine salmon on our way out; but we were not so fortunate this time as to find a salmon for our dinner, and yet we supplied the place very well with some fine venison which we had purchased in the morning. We now set out to cross the last mountain but one between us and the Clatsop plain. We succeeded in crossing this mountain about half way, and it was nearly sunset, so we were obliged to camp in the woods where our cattle could get no grass. But the night passed away and the next morning we succeeded in reaching the beach again.⁵ In descending the mountain I found my powder horn which Lewis had left on our way out.

After reaching the beach we proceeded to the south of Cape Lookout.⁶ It was now nearly night and we camped and prepared a supper of mussels which we had gathered near this place. And as here was a small plain, and plenty of feed for our cattle, we determined to lay by the next day and recruit. I wrote a note to Mrs. Frost, and the next day we sent a young indian to Br. Smith's house on the plain instructing him to bring some potatoes &c to us the next day. Just before the evening of the next day one of the Old Clatsop hunters came down from the mountain to us with a load of elk meat, which was very welcome just now, as our provisions were well nigh spent. We eat heartily that night, and the next morning we set out again expecting soon to see our families.

When we commenced ascending the mountain, Lewis, having taken the ague & fever, and having a light chill that morning, concluded to sit down and rest himself, saying, when urged to mount a horse and come along, that he knew the way

⁵By Cape Falcon and Arch Cape.

⁶Tillamook Head.

and would come on shortly, so we drove on, and about a mile and a half farther we met the boy which we had sent to the plain for provisions here we boiled some potatoes and eat them expecting that Lewis would overtake us here, but we were ready to set out again and no Lewis came. We felt assured, however, that he could not miss the trail, and would no doubt come up to us where we camped at night. We crossed over the mountain and camped a little below where we camped on our way out on the creek. But the night passed away and Lewis did not arrive. I felt uneasy concerning him but had no doubt but that he would find his way out in safety. So in the morning we left some provision at the place for Lewis and a little before sun set we reached the Clatsop plain.

Here we met Tawint an Indian who lived at our place, whom Mrs. Frost had sent to meet us with some provisions. I gave some of the provisions to Wallace who in company with Br. Smith drove the cattle up on the plain and then went to Br. S.'s house, while myself Cooper and Hopeo⁷ took our pack horses, and repaired to our place on the bank of the Columbia.

Having been nearly six weeks from home, I was very happy and thankful to meet with my family again, and to find them in health.

And notwithstanding the many difficulties in our way we had succeeded in reaching our plain with fifty head of horses & cattle out of fifty five with which we left Walamette. It was now Saturday night, and had it not been for the absence of Lewis, all would have been well. I hoped however, that he would arrive on the morrow. The sabbath arrived; but Lewis did not arrive with it. On monday morning I set out to go in search of him but was prevented by the tide, in passing around a point which puts out into the river about a mile from the house. On tuesday morning I set out again, but after labouring nearly all day to get round the same point failed, and was obliged to return. So on wednesday morning I slung my blanket on my back and in company with Tawint an indian living with us, set out on foot, travelled to the south

⁷The Hawaiian who was employed by Kone, Frost's associate.

end of the plain to the last indian lodge, but could hear nothing of Lewis. Here we lodged, and the next morning, being accompanied by another indian, set out again crossed the cape to the place where we left him, but could see nor hear no sign of him. There we struck fire eat a little and rolled ourselves in our blankets and lay down and slept until morning.

In the morning we went down to the beach, but could see no trace of Lewis. I now gave him up for lost, and determined to return home by way of the coast.

But as providence would have it, when all hope was lost as respected finding Lewis, a little after noon we accidently, to all human appearance, fell upon him, in a wretched condition, having fallen down a precipice and bruised himself very much, and being almost famished, having had nothing to eat in three or four days.

A short distance from the place where we found him we made a fire. I fed him as much as his situation would admit of, and the next day we succeeded in reaching the first indian lodge on our way home.

The next day an indian took us in his canoe as far as the creek was navigable, where Cooper met us with a pair of horses, having been sent by Mrs. Frost. In the evening we reached home, it being now saturday night again. And the trials of the week just passed were among the severest of my life.

If it be asked why I undertook this journey to the Walamette after cattle and horses, I answer. The Walamette, the only place to which we can look for supplies, is 160 miles from this place, consequently all our provisions must be transported from that place to this at a great expense. The Missionary must leave his family, take an indian canoe, and go after any supplies he may want, as a general thing. And in a trip of this kind he is exposed to every thing which is ruinous to health. He must not unfrequently brave the storm by day and camp on the bank of the river by night. And at times have his frail bark broken or wrecked on the passage. Five or six indians must be paid and fed, whose aid is necessary to work the canoe. The missionaries family must suffer, it may be, very much in body, and certainly very much in mind,

during the absence of the person upon whom they are, under God, dependant for all things of an earthly nature.

The transportation of the supplies for the sustenance of the family of the missionary mounts to more than they are worth. And the best season of the year is spent in securing these supplies by the missionary himself. And it is not only the time of the missionary that is thus spent; but his bodily strength is thus exhausted, and his health impaired which must disqualify him for future usefulness.

Various other items might be enumerated, but I think these to be sufficient to satisfy any reasonable mind that if the most of these necessaries could be raised at the station, that a great expence would be avoided, and most, if not all, of the above difficulties obviated.

Well now, Bread stuffs, and sauce &c., cannot be grown without a team. Milk, butter, beef and pork can not be made without cattle. And cattle and horses could not be brought to this place without driving them over land, except by paying more than the worth of them to get them here by water, besides loosing nearly the same length of time in accomplishing the same object. And no one would move in this matter unless Br. Smith and myself would undertake. Therefore, believing it to be necessary for the existence and prosperity of this missionary station through the blessing of God, we did undertake, and we accomplished what we did.

It was October [1841] when I succeeded in finding Lewis and getting him home. And as the rainy season generally sets in about the first of November I had no time to loose, but must hasten back to Walamette by water in order to secure supplies for the winter. A few days were spent in getting a little wood, and in attending to some other little house-hold affairs when I set out again for the Walamette. My vessel consisting of an indian canoe. My crew, four indians and two squaws or indian women; the latter, however, went only part of the way.

I performed this voyage in twenty one days,⁸ meeting with

⁸This was the round trip which Frost estimated at 320 miles; Lee and Frost, *Ten Years in Oregon*, 309.

nothing but the ordinary trials and difficulties incident to all trips of the kind, except the great perplexity and difficulty of obtaining the articles I wanted, and which were all to be in readiness before I arrived at Walamette. I succeeded however, in obtaining some provisions, and farming utensils, and returned home. My goods came down on board of a little schooner, built and owned by a few Americans,⁹ with which little vessel they designed to go to California. They returned, however, to Walamette shortly afterwards.

When I returned home I found my family in usual health, which I considered one of the greatest blessings. In a day or two I found that one of my best horses was sick and notwithstanding all I could do to save him he died.

I expected to remove to the plain as soon as possible after my return from the Walamette; but owing to circumstances I was obliged to abandon the idea, and content myself to winter on the bank of the river.¹⁰ Br. Smith removed to the plain in November, where he has no neighbours but our horses and cattle.

Mr. Kone, who has been with me since Oct. 1840 determined to go home. So on the 28th of Nov. he recd a note from Capt. Humphries, of the H. B. Co's ship *Columbia* that he could have a passage to the Sandwich Islands for himself and family. He accordingly packed up his clothing &c Leaving the remainder of his property to be disposed of, and on the 30th of Nov. left us with his family for Fort George where he joined the vessel, being "satisfied," as he observed, that he could effect nothing as a missionary in this dark land. The Rev. A. B. Smith, another missionary who was under the patronage of the American Board, left in the same vessel, professedly, under the same conviction. And is it so! Has the church sent out her servants to this dark land to offer life and salvation to these heathen, and must they return, saying,

⁹The *Star of Oregon*, built at Swan Island, 1841-42, sailed for California, September, 1842, and there sold for 350 cows; *Oregon Pioneer Transactions*, 1891, 181-92.

¹⁰The missionaries had a house on Clatsop Plains, and in February, 1841, had built another on the bank of the Columbia River half way between Youngs Bay and Point Adams.

Not that the devils were subject to us through the name of Jesus; But that those who were bidden to the wedding would not come!!! I believe it is acknowledged on all hands that the prospect, at present, is exceedingly gloomy.

The indians are, by a great majority, fewer in number than they were supposed to be. And as each band has a peculiar dialect, or tongue, Those who profess to be the best judges, suppose their language not worth reducing with the design of printing the same, and of making it the medium of communication. I am inclined to favour this view of the subject. But still I believe if the proper means can be brought into requisition, that at least many of these forlorn heathen may be benefited both for time and eternity. And will not the Lord and the church sustain those who continue in the field, and who labour and toil in order to accomplish this best of all objects. At all events I am not yet satisfied that the Lord has no more work for me to do in this land of darkness. When I am fully satisfied of this, or that there is nothing more for me to do here as a missionary, I will ask immediately to be removed to another field of labour.

DECEMBER 16TH. Last night Br. Smith came up from the plain, and remained with us until this morning. Since the fore part of the month of November we have had rain almost every day, and for a part of this day, it has literally poured down. As yet we have had but a few flurries of snow in this immediate vicinity; but the mountains to the N. & N. E. of us have been whitened repeatedly. The weather has been, as yet, for the most part, moderate. We have experienced some chilly days while the wind prevailed from the N. & N. E.

The Indians have been at the South end of the plain, at their fall salmon fishery, about 15 miles distant since early in the fall; so that I have but little communication with them at the present. And indeed I find enough to do to attend to the daily wants of my family, and one family of Indians who have taken up their residence near my house, and who are almost wholly dependant on me for sustenance.

But we will try to be patient until the worst of the rainy season passes away, when I hope to remove to the plain where I can have the use of my horses and from which point I will

be able to visit the Indians as circumstances may require, "If the Lord will."

DEC. 26. Since the 16th we have had two or three days without rain. Today it rains very much, and is dark and exceedingly gloomy. I have thought much of the privileges of My Brethren in my native land. And especially of my Brethren in the ministry, with whom I have travelled and laboured. I am often led to think of the expression of the Poet, "When I think of my own native land, in a moment I seem to be there." But, notwithstanding, recollection is at hand, and reminds me that this is only ideal, it does not "hurry me back to despair." If it is the will of the Lord that we should continue here during the term of natural life, I wish, at all times, to be able to say, The will of the Lord be done. And think, if I can see the way opened, and good spiritual good, being effected among the Indians that I would rather be here in this lonely and dreary region than in the city full, where all the comforts and conveniences of life are to be enjoyed with relatives & friends. And will not God extend the hand of mercy to these heathen, through us as instruments? Or are they destined to fade away, and never be benefited by the Gospel of Peace? It certainly appears that if they are not enlightened soon, they never will be; for in a few years more there will be none of them.

FEB. 2ND 1842. Since I last wrote nothing of importance has transpired. The Indians are at this time coming up from the South end of the Plain. And although there was a great abundance of Salmon in the fall they are now destitute of food except such roots as they can procure from day to day. The whale and black fish, that drift ashore, is their main dependance for food during winter, but this has been very scarce this winter, as only a part of one whale has come ashore.

There is Elk on the mountains, but they are too lazy to hunt much. Of late, they have manifested a greater disposition to steal than formerly. While Br. Smith was at the Walamette last fall, they broke into his house on the plain and carried off many of his things. The most of which, however, were recovered again. Of late, one of them entered his house near where I live, and stole some of his flour; but the thief

was detected, and agreed to work for the flour which he had stolen. Nothing can restrain such wretches from the perpetration of crime, but the fear of punishment. They think it no sin to steal, and they look upon a white man as a being altogether different from themselves, and all they expect from his being among them is temporal benefit. And whoever benefits them most in this way is the best man. Their circumstances are such that I fear they never will be much benefited by the Gospel. They are very few in number, and their number is continually decreasing. But two children are now living out of a number that have been born among them since we have been here. The fact is, they can not live, for the most disgusting disease is entailed upon them from the womb. And this is the case universally, at least, in the lower country. I am quite confident, from the observations which I have been enabled to make, that there never will be any thing like a permanent Christian church raised up among them. various reasons might be given for this last remark, and these reasons I will give hereafter if I am spared.

Although it is exceedingly painful to reflect that we have laboured and toiled in vain, yet it is my sincere conviction that the money that is being expended in sustaining several of us in this field under present circumstances and in view of future prospects, might and ought to be expended to better purpose elsewhere. I wish, however, to submit all to the Lord, and pray that all may work together for the final advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

The rainy season still continues and probably will continue for some time.

FEB. 19. Nothing special has transpired since I last wrote. The indians are now taking possession of their summer residences in this neighbourhood. They are very short on for food, and will be so until salmon time; which will not commence until about the last of April or first of May. They manifest not the least concern for the soul. They appear to have an idea of the existence of the soul; but from what I have been able to learn from them, they believe the spirit continues with the body after death. They appear to have no idea of a future state. They know nothing of their relation to God their

maker. They have no laws, neither have they any idea of law, either human or divine. And, as far as my knowledge extends, their language is so defective, as a medium of communication, that it is impossible thereby to acquaint them with the true notion of law.

And until they can be brought to feel that they are condemned by the law of God how can they be made to feel their need of Christ? They appear to consider a white man as a being of a different order. And they rejoice if they succeed in getting his substance from him by fraud, theft, or any unfair means; and nothing but the fear of punishment prevents them from extensive outrages. Formerly they were very bold in the commission of crime; but then they were numerous. There is now so few of them, and as they consider the white a strong people, they are more cautious.

FEBY. 23RD. Wrote a line to Br. Waller.

[FEB.] 26. This morning we have more snow on the ground than we have had at any one time this winter; and now it is not the half of an inch deep. The rains are still frequent, but the fury of the storms is not so great. Tomorrow will be the holy sabbath, but no sound of the "church going bell" will salute our ears; no congregating assembly will cheer our hearts, not one christian friend will we have to join with us in prayr or praise. The indian knows nothing of the sabbath, neither has he any sympathy in common with us. "He dreams of no heaven beyond the blue mountains." "He sees no God in the clouds, nor hears him in the winds." He looks no further into futurity than the canoe in which his body may be deposited.

The language, or rather the jargon, as it is called, is all the medium of communication we are able to make use of, which is altogether insufficient, by which to make known to them religious truths. Their language is very difficult, and it will require much time and labour to acquire it. And when one language is acquired, only a small number understand it, as each clan has a different language. So that the prospect of benefiting them by instructing them in their own language will not warrant the expense. Indeed I do not think the present adults will ever be benefited by missionary effort, and

the children are so much diseased from their birth that but very few of them live to manhood. The christian cannot but feel for them and pray for them, as he sees them fading away. I have been very much afflicted for some time with a disease in my throat, the pallett or uvula is very much elongated, and the region about it is inflamed and painful, so that it is with difficulty that I attend to my family devotions. What the result will be I cannot tell; but I would be resigned to the will of God and hope for the best.

MARCH 5TH. On the 3d I visited Br. Smith on the plain. He was suffering much with discouragement. Surely he has difficulties to pass through of which those in the civilized world know nothing. Oh! how do those undervalue their privaleges who are blessed with all the sweets of society, and all the privaleges of a christian community.

All things now wear the aspect of winter. The week past has been very stormy, during which time we have had more snow, or rather hail, than we have had during the winter past. It lies on the ground at the present about 3 inches deep. The Indians are very much pinched for want of food, the cold weather and snow makes it still worse for them; but they appear to prefer ease and starvation, to hard labour and a sufficiency!!

MARCH 6. Sabbath. Our religious exercises consist of reading a chapter in the Bible night and morning every day with Jay's morning and evening exercises, and prayr.

This morning I read the first chapter of Deuteronomies, Jay's exercise is on the 21st verse—"Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee, go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee: fear not, neither be discouraged." The land of Canaan which God gave to the children of Israel for their earthly inheritance, was a type of that heavenly inheritance, which will be the happy home of the true spiritual Israelite forever. May we have grace to go up in faith and possess it.

MARCH 13. The sabbath has returned again, and the christian in civilized lands is worshiping in the house of God. May the time soon come when temples of the living God shall be filled with devout worshipers in every part of our fallen

world. During the week past I visited the indians for the purpose of talking with them again about religion. I asked the oldest man among them where he thought he would go to after death. He said he did not know, and when I asked him if he did not want to know, he said no, and soon very deliberately filled his pipe for a smoke. I endeavoured to tell them where they would go, and what would be the condition of the different characters of men in a future state; but I have no reason to believe that they understood or had any regard for that which was spoken. They are very hungry, and pester me very much for something to eat, and if I should feed them all every day they would think it all right; but would be not in the least grateful. The family that has lived near me since last spring and which I have fed, during the winter, from day to day, said one day that they were hungry. I told the man if he would help my servant to get some wood for a few days I would feed him and his family; to this he agreed, and for two days he assisted in getting some wood; but this was too much, he began to complain to my servant, and said that I was making a slave of him. I went to his lodge and gave him a scolding, and asked him if I was not rather the slave, having furnished him the boards that covered him and his family, and Mrs. Frost had carried them food almost every day during the winter. O, said he, What of the boards? what do I do with them? they simply lie up there!!

The weather is much more mild, and the renewing of the vegetable kingdom assures us of the approach of a more delightful season. But how much more delightful will it be when this wintry life shall have passed away, to awake in the spring of a blissful eternity. The Lord grant us grace, that we may be prepared for the enjoyment of that bliss and glory.

MARCH 21. Still stormy, hail and rain, but the storms are of shorter duration. A more gloomy season I never witnessed than it has been since last Nov. No doubt it has appeared more gloomy to me because of the loneliness of my situation.

For nearly two weeks past Br. Smith's wife has been very sick which renders it very trying for him, as he has no neighbour. I am the nearest white neighbour that he has, and we are six miles apart. I render him all the assistance I can, by

giving such medicines as I am in possession of &C. I learned, yesterday, by my servant whom I had sent for the purpose, that she was improving a little, and hope that, through the mercy of God, she may be recovered.

I visited an indian today at the lodge who is very sick. His father returned to my house with me for something for his son to eat, and I gave him also a potion of physick and some wash for his son's eye, which is very much inflamed. I am not forward to administer medicine to any of them; for they are so extremely superstitious that if one of them should die after taking medicine they would be almost sure to attribute the death to those who give medicine.

I never felt the need of society so much as I have since the departure of Br. Kone. But still I strive to be content, and hope the Lord will effect a change for the better in his own time. That which I need most to render my situation agreeable is regular employment for body and mind. To be housed up through such a gloomy season is exceedingly trying. And the prospect with regard to christianizing these few Indians is so exceeding unpromising that it is difficult not to murmur. I would, however, trust in the Lord, and hope to see a brighter day. I should be ungrateful if I did not record my gratitude to God for the preservation of my family thus far, and that I am enabled to trust in him for the future.

The indians are beginning to take a few salmon, they will soon be supplied with enough to eat. But alas for them, they feel no need of the bread of life. But, says the apostle, what have I to do to judge them that are without? Unto whom little is given from such little will be required. "They are a law unto themselves." May we have grace to improve our superiour light.

MARCH 25. This is my birth day. And I have now numbered thirty seven years upon earth. When I take a retrospect of my past wanderings, and realize in some measure, how graciously the Lord has watched over me, and led me along, and how mercifully he has preserved my family in the midst of dangers by sea and land, I have great cause for gratitude. May the remainder of my days be dedicated to the service of God. I have at times a desire to return to the land that gave me

birth; but it is doubtful whether that desire will ever be granted, and I am striving to pray daily that we may be resigned to the will of God. If the way should open for usefulness here, and if we could realize that we were doing good as missionaries, I think we should be quite happy.

The church is expecting much from us, which I fear she will never realize; not because there is not a sufficiency of moral power in the gospel, nor because the missionaries in the field are not willing and ready to make every necessary sacrifice in order that this power might be exerted; but because of the material to operate upon—these are the mere dregs of former tribes, so much dispersed and so migratory in their habits, and so much diseased and withal having so many different languages, which are so very imperfect as a medium of communication, that nothing encouraging can be expected.

APRIL 2. On the 30 of March I recd a letter from the Revd. J. Lee which brought the sad intelligence of the death of his wife. On the 26th of Feby she gave birth to a daughter, one week after which she was attacked with pleurisy, and on the 20th of March she expired being strangled by the breaking of an ulser. "Thy will be done."

13. On the 10th I received letters from Br. Kone who was at Oahu, and also from Rev. Lowell Smith at the same place. Br. Kone informed me that he had engaged a passage for the U. S. and that the vessel would sail on the first of April. May they reach their native land in safety. The rainy season still continues, it storms tremendously while I write, and is a most gloomy day. Mrs. Frost is considerably out of health, and my throat is very bad; but surely the Lord will not leave us, while we trust in him; neither will he suffer us to be tempted above what he will enable us to bear.

MAY 10. About 2 weeks since the Brig *N.* Capt. Chapman arrived from Salem Mass. for the purpose of trading salmon &c. They anchored opposite our house. The Capt and Mr. Birnie came on shore in the afternoon and took tea with us, they also came on shore in the morning and breakfasted with us. During the day Capt landed some goods and barrels, and left a man to trade; after this the vessel passed up the river. Lewis, my servant man, entered the employ of Capt. C. and

left his wife with us, which is all the domestic help we have. Mrs. Frost has been quite out of health for some time; but I hope as the dry season is approaching she may recover better health. My throat is not quite so bad, yet I have no hope of recovering from that disease until it receives surgical treatment.

Yesterday a Brig crossed the Bar and anchored inside.

MAY 13. The Brig which anchored inside the Bar on the 10th proved to be the *Cbenamus*, Capt. Couch, from Newbury-port, Mass. She came up the 2nd day after crossing the Bar, and is now at Ft. George. I recd letters by her from Br. & Sister Kone, who were at Honolulu, expecting soon to sail for the U. States. I recd also a few papers.

MAY 24. On the 22nd I received a letter from Br. Alfred Higbie, who taught the school in the district where I was born and bred. His letter was dated the 12th & 16th of Feb. 1841. It was a great comfort to us to learn that my Parents were yet alive at that time and that my Brothers and Sisters were also living except one; but that one, my Brother John is numbered with the dead. He bid adieu to this world on the 10th of Feb. 1841. When I took leave of him and his family he said "You are going far away; but I shall see you again, Yes, I shall see you again." But how little does frail man know of the future! He will see me again, but it will be in the world of Spirits. May we meet in joy.

We recd letters also from Br. Percy Steel's family who reside in Windham, Green Co. N. Y. & from Bro. Clement, Poughkeepsie & from Father Dibbell & from Rev. David Terry, House of Refuge N. Y. For all which I feel thankful.

MAY 28. Crime of every kind prevails among the Heathen. This however is not so surprizing, as they have no knowledge of God, or of his laws. But what shall we say of those, and there are many such, who come here from the civilized world, those, who are probably born of Christian Parents, and no sooner than they set their feet upon this dark shore than they lie down in all the abominations of the Heathen. Such occurrences are not rare in this region. While we are endeavouring to teach the heathen the Law of God, how must it put us to the blush, and cause our hearts to ache, when men, our own

country-men, even from that literary, moral, and religious state of Conn. come here and tell the Natives "there is no God," and committ such acts of licentiousness that cause some of the Indians to say that they are ashamed. I refer particularly to the seamen who from time to time visit this coast. And yet I hope that there is some honourable exceptions even among them.

How obvious it is that in order that the world be converted to God, that those who sail upon the high seas should become the subject of renewing grace. Where there are no laws to restrain the vile practices of the depraved heart, and where opportunities are so abundant which elicit the indulgence of all the vile passions as there is in Heathen Ports like this, we must expect to witness the soul appalling consequence, and there every evil that sinks human nature will be manifested in all their horrid forms.

The laws of Civilization and Christianity must go hand in hand. God has ordained the one as well as the other, and where one is not enforced the other can not prosper. Show me a country where Civil law, founded on the word of God, is not enforced, and I will show you a country where the Gospel makes but little, if any, progress. The Civil Magestrate, while he impartially administers the laws of his country, supposing those laws to be what they should be, may be resembled to a fortress reared at the commencement of the road that leads to Hell, which by its frowning battlements admonishes all who would enter there, or pass the boundaries of Justice to be prepared to feel the penalty of the law. While the Gospel points the sinner who is caused to halt, and reflect, to the ways of virtue and heaven. "What God has joined together, let no man put assunder."

JUNE 16. I have just received the intelligence that the Indians who live about 2 miles from me, have this morning buried a man alive. This is the second instance of the like barbarity which has taken place in this vicinity since we have been in this region. And these acts of worse than brutal cruelty have been performed with the professed object to prevent the salmon leaving the river. For, according to their superstition, if a dead body should lie above ground, the sal-

mon would all leave. These are "the habitations of cruelty."

23. On the 17 Bro. J. Lee, Bro. Abernethy & wife & children, Bro. Parrish & Family arrived from Walamette. I had not seen any of the members of our mission since the departure of Br. Kone, and Mrs. F. had not seen a white female since the departure of Sister Kone, until the arrival of these, our Brethren & Sisters. Of course we were rejoiced to see them come. Bro. Lee & Mrs. Parrish have been sick since their arrival; but they are both convalescent.

JULY 12. Bro. J. Lee left for Nasqually on the 4th and Bro. Parrish and family for Walamette to day. So I am alone with my family, and Bro. Abernethy's family, Bro. Abernethy having returned to Walamette to transact business, who, on his return, will probably bring down Bro. Raymond and family, who are appointed to assist me at this place. There has been a strife on this river, or rather a competition between the Americans and the H. B. Company in regard to the salmon and Peltry trade, and as far as I know the competition has been carried on upon honourable principles until the 10th instant when a Vessel in the employ of the H. B. Co. arrived in Baker's Bay from London, since that ardent spirits have been distributed among the Indians, whether the Americans or English commenced this iniquitous practice first I cannot now say, neither is it of any consequence for both are guilty, so both are responsible. And what has been the result of this unholy & despicable conduct of the white man? This day the Indians are in a state of brutal drunkenness, lying in their filth and polution, but this is not all, the Tiger is unchained. This is not ideal. I have had ocular demonstration. I have seen them today but a few hundred yards from my house fall upon each other like tigers indeed, during the affray but one man was wounded, he was stabled in 4 or 5 places, but not mortally. These are but a part of the effects produced in two days. What will be the result if this diabolical practice is persisted in for two months? Heaven forbid that it should be continued in.

I have written to Dr. McLoughlin & Mr. Birnie on the subject today and if I had known that the Americans near me had vended any before I wrote, I should have written to Capt.

Chapman on the subject. I speak and write plainly on the subject, by pursuing this course I may gain enemies among men; but I believe God will sustain me. Therefore I will plainly reprove my neighbour, lest his blood be found in my skirts, and the result I will leave with God.

14. On the afternoon of the 11th, after I wrote the above, 4 or 5 men and women were shot, none of which are yet dead if I am rightly informed. One poor man lies in the Lodge in the rear of my house, from whose back I extracted a ball yesterday morning, which had passed through him having entered the right breast. He may possibly recover, but I think his end is nigh. Who will answer for all this evil when God comes to make inquisition for Blood? Yesterday I wrote to Capt. Chapman, on the subject, and also to Br. J. Lee.

16. The indian mentioned above as being mortally wounded is dead.

JULY 20. Mr. Birnie came over on the 16 and assured me that neither himself nor any man under him in this vicinity had issued rum, and as far as he knew but little had been given from the vessel above mentioned. But an American has to my certain knowledge given or sold a number of bottles. Let him answer for his conduct to that tribunal which cannot err.

Br. Abernethy returned from Walamette on the 15th and today the 20th He and his family and Mrs. F. have gone to the Plains. There are no more signs of disturbance among the Indians at present, and if liquor is withheld from them I apprehend no more bloodshed at this time. The man who was guilty of furnishing them with liquor, has gone to Walamette, and I pray that he may never return to this vicinity, or that he may return an altered man.

AUG. 1. Br. Raymond and family arrived on the 26th of July and on the 27th Bro. Abernethy and family took their departure for the Walamette. This day Bro. Raymond and family removed to the plain, and we have commenced removing lumber from this place to the Plain with which to build up a dwelling house, which we hope to accomplish before the rainy season sets in again.

On examination I am satisfied that none of the officers of the H. B. Co. were in any wise concerned in issuing the liquor

among the Indians of which mention is made above. But the instrument employed in the distribution of, at least, the most of it, returned last week, and after swallowing a sufficiency of ardent spirits to arouse the tiger in him, he came over in order to have a row with me; because I had reproved his evil doings; but God delivered me out of his hand, and I learned that he was much ashamed the next day when he became sober. He informed me that Capt. Chapman was quite excited because of the letter I sent him, so I must be prepared for what may follow, but I trust that that God whom I serve will deliver me.

AUG. 12. On the 9th I was very unexpectedly called upon to go to Fort George in order to administer the ordinance of Matrimony. On the 10th Mr. Francis Ermatinger & Miss Catherine Sinclair were married and after dinner of the same day they came down with us and continued here until this morning. Mr. Ermatinger is one of the Chief Traders of the H. B. Co.'s service and Miss Sinclair is a daughter of a Gentleman of the same service, and grand-daughter of John McLaughlin Esq.¹¹ We had a very pleasant visit with them, and hope their union may prove a blessing to them through life. We are now alone again and will soon leave for the Plain. May the God of mercy direct us and keep us.

18TH. Today I removed to the Plain with my family.

25TH. All in usual health. Since the above date we have been employed in regulating and have commenced making shingles for our house and we hope to be comfortably housed before the rainy season.

SEPT. 3RD. On the 1st Bro. Richmond and Bro. Whitcomb called to see us and spent the night with us. Their families were on board of the Brig *Chenamus* which was lying at Fort George so also were Bro. Leslie and Dr. Baily¹² and families all bound for the U. States. I suppose they are now at sea, and may the Lord preserve them while passing over the mighty deep, and bring them safely to their friends and home.

¹¹Granddaughter of Mrs. McLoughlin and step-granddaughter of Dr. McLoughlin.

¹²Dr. William J. Bailey.

OCT. 10. Last Thursday the 6th we moved into our new house, having finished the kitchen of my half. This afternoon I recd a letter from my Bro. George, who lives in Ithaca, the first I have recd from him since we left home. Nothing of an earthly nature can be more cheering than to receive intelligence from our relatives, situated as we are in this far off heathen land. We would offer many thanks to God for preserving most of our relatives alive, and for preparing those who have been called away, as we have a reason to hope, for a better world. Mrs. F. in ill health, the rest of us all well. Although we have trials many, yet we hope we do not live nor labour in vain; we would dedicate all to God, and strive to do his will.

DECEMBER 4TH. Winter has commenced and we are so situated that we can keep ourselves tolerably warm and dry. And through the mercy of God we enjoy a degree of health, and have food and raiment.

For a number of Sabbaths past I have preached to my small congregation on doctrinal subjects, thus endeavouring to imprint upon the mind just conceptions of the character & attributes of God, and of the way of life and salvation opened for lost sinners through free grace. I hope, through the mercy of God, to live to see a church here enjoying a thorough knowledge of God & of his great salvation.

I learned yesterday that our old friend "Chano" was shot near the mouth of the Walamette River. So they go, and soon there will be not one of them left to tell the sad tale of their decline. Shall not a remnant of them be brought to a knowledge of salvation?

24. Having got our house nearly enclosed and being worn down with excessive toil, and as my throat disease began to grow much worse, I left home with my family on the morning of the 11th, spent the night with Mr. Birnie at Fort George and the next morning I left my family at Mr. Birnie's and set out for Vancouver in pursuit of medical aid. I succeeded in ascending the river about 4 miles above the Cowalitz river, and about 60 miles above Ft. George, but there, contrary to all expectations, we found the river frozen over, so I was glad to turn about and proceed homeward, and it was with difficulty

that we made our retreat, for the ice was closing up rapidly below us; in forcing our way through some of it our canoe was cut considerably. We succeeded, however, in reaching Fort George in safety on the afternoon of the 16th with no better health, but with the consolation of thinking that "what cant be cured must be endured." At Fort George we continued to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. Birnie untill the 21st for as the wind was adverse, we could not cross the Bay, (Young's Bay) But on that day we arrived at our home, and now we are fairly burrowed up for the winter.

The weather this winter, so far, very much resembles the first winter we spent in the country; a few rains and southerly wind; but the rest of the time, clear and pleasant; no snow, and but just cold enough to freeze thin ice on the small ponds.

On the 1st of Jany. [1843] I administered the sacrament of the Lords Supper to those present who professed to be the disciples of our blessed Lord. The communicants were Bro. Solomon H. Smith, Bro. Raymond and wife and Mrs. Frost. May we all be "partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light."

On the 3rd a man by the name of Cooper¹³ arrived from Walamette bringing the sad intelligence that Bro. Olley was drowned on the 11th of Dec. in the Walamette river above the Mission. He had gone in pursuit of some Lumber with an Indian canoe having a young man to assist him. It appears that they bound a log each side of the canoe, when descending a rapid the canoe struck a snag, and both were thrown overboard; the young man escaped but Bro. Olley was drowned.

We will not be over sorrowful, notwithstanding we all loved Bro. Olley very much; for he was not needed here, and so the Lord has taken him to his reward. May we be also ready.

We are now having a southerly storm, which has continued more than a week. If the weather becomes clear I think of leaving the first of next week, in company with Bro. Raymond for Vancouver, in order to obtain, if possible, relief from my throat disease, which is worse than it ever has been,

¹³See *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, XXXV, 257.

and yet it is difficult to determine which is duty, to go in pursuit of relief for myself, and leave my wife, who is in ill health, or to remain and be sufferers together. May the Lord direct.

FEBY. 28. I could not conceive it to be right to go with Bro. Raymond, who left for Walamette on the 10th Jany., because of the ill health of Mrs. Frost, but I wrote to Dr. White, desiring him to make us a visit.

On the evening of the 14th of Feby, Bro. R. returned bringing the heartrending intelligence of a most awful disaster which took place on his return from the Walamette mission to the Walamette Falls. The canoe containing his goods & Mr. Crocker from the state of New York, a Gentleman much respected, Mr. Rogers,¹⁴ son in law to Rev. D. Leslie, a young man of excellent christian character, and much promise, his wife, daughter of Rev. Leslie and her youngest sister and two Indians were all swept over the Falls and thus were six souls ushered in one moment into the presence of their God. Br. Raymond and Doctor White had but just stepped out of the canoe and were making arrangements for the others to do so, when the canoe took a shear, was caught by the current and was carried down without remedy. I cannot dwell upon the awful event. The name of the Lord be praised that I am yet alive, and that my family are still with me.

Dr. E. White came down with Mr. Raymond and I was glad to avail myself of his help in my suffering state. the Dr. saw proper to operate upon my throat by cutting off the nevuia or pallet, this operation promised at least temporal benefit. He also administered to my other difficulties.

The Dr. left us for Walamette on the 27th Feby. By him I sent letters to Rev. J. Lee, requesting him, in view of our ill health, and the fact that my services were not required in this country, that he would return me to my conference as soon as possible, and in order to this, requested him to secure me a passage on board of the H. B. Co's vessel which will leave the river in the Spring for Oahu, and one to the Board appriz-

¹⁴Cornelius Rogers, who had come out with the American Board missionaries, Eells and Walker, in 1838.

ing them of my purpose &c. I expect therefore to leave Oregon with my family for the U. States as soon as possible, believing it to be the will of God, And feeling that it would be morally wrong in view of all the circumstances to pursue the opposite course.

MARCH 1. Throat somewhat inflamed, back soar. Mrs. F. doing her house-work, very wrong, but can not avoid it, no help, cannot get any. Look with anxiety for the time when I can get her on ship board, where she can be still. May the Lord direct. Through the past winter we have had but little snow, just enough to whiten the ground, and but little cold weather. This is a very pleasant morning; the grass begins to grow, and all things indicate a resurrection of the vegetable world.

MARCH 19. Since the 17 we have had most delightful weather. I never saw anything to exceed it in the month of May in the U. States. Mr. Birnie came over yesterday to make us a visit, and is still with us. No material change in our health. My pallet shorter, but throat still inflamed. Mrs. F. much as she has been for months past in respect to health. Feel a desire to preach today, but am not able. For two nights past, a Comet with a train extending about one fourth of the distance across that part of the heavens which is visible to us, with a bright twinkling star at its head, has been seen by all of us. It was discoverable at sun set, or soon after, in the west, and last night it set so that its train was entirely lost to us beneath the western horizon about a quarter after 9 o'clock in the evening, its course being in the direction of the Sun or nearly from east to west. I will now mention that when I attempted to ascend the river to Vancouver on the 13th December last, I observed a column of smoke to ascend from the N.W. side of Mount St. Helens, towards the top; of which I thought at the time that it was a perfect resemblance of a volcanic eruption, but as I had no one but Indians with me, consequently no one with whom I could reason on the subject, I dismissed it from my mind, and thought no more of it until it was mentioned by some other person who had witnessed the same phenomenon. It has been ascertained since however, that it was an actual volcanic eruption. I know not that it

has as yet emitted anything but smoke. Have learned since that ashes has been thrown out in great abundance, even as far as to the Dalls.

JUNE 13. Left Clatsop for Walamette on the 8th of April. Settled my affairs with the mission, attended the Yearly meeting &c, and returned to Clatsop on the 8th instant.

The Longitude of Fort Vancouver West $122^{\circ} 50' 20''$. Latitude N. $45^{\circ} 36' 50''$.

On November 5th 1832 the variation of the magnetic needle at Vancouver was $22^{\circ} 00' 40''$ East.

No vessels to sail from this to Oahu this spring, so I must remain until next Fall. The Lord knows what is best for me therefore I would be submissive, and wait the opening of his providence. Thus far through life I have been led by a way that I have not known; but the Lord has been faithful to his promises, our wants have all been supplied. We would still trust in him.

AUGUST 18. Obtained a passage for myself and family to Oahu by the way of California on board of the Barque *Diamond* of Scarboro England, Capt. Fowler. Bro. Daniel Lee and family and Dr. Babcock and family have also taken passage with us. We entered on board at Fort George on the 15th and dropped down into Baker's Bay on the 16th where we are now lying, waiting for a fair wind to cross the bar.

21. Crossed the Bar about noon with a fair breeze for Calafornia. Farewell to the land where I have experienced many trials, "But out of all the Lord has brought me by his love."

Dropped anchor in the harbour of St. Francisco on the 26th. Here we find a very extensive and splendid harbour. The region round about is very thinly populated and there are but a very few ordinary buildings at the anchorage. The site is well adapted for the location of a mercantile city. Six ships and two schooners, beside a few small crafts are now lying in the port. The produce of the country which is shipped for foreign market consists principally of hides and tallow, consequently the inhabitants are principally herdsmen. Wheat can be raised in great abundance, but as there is no market for the article but little attention is paid to its culture. Catholicism

is the established religion of the country, consequently the people are ignorant and degraded. There is in fact no Sabbath at this place. Buying, selling, drinking and gambling are carried on and practised on Sabbath as well as on any other day. Surely God will visit for these things.

On the afternoon of the 28th Dr. Babcock and myself went up to the Mission of St. Francisco which is now in a dilapidated state. We took dinner with one of the few families residing there which was served up in Spanish style. The principle object of our visit was to procure fruit, but we could obtain none except a few green pears.

On the afternoon of the 29th we ran down into Whaler's Bay for the purpose of taking in water, then on the 30th we called on Capt. Richardson's family, his good Spanish Lady and pretty daughter recd us very kindly and afforded us some very agreeable refreshments, after which we returned on ship board, orders were now given to man the windless and before sun set we were taking the last look of the coast of California.

After a very pleasant passage we arrived at Honolulu Oahu on the 16th Sept.

My health was such that I was enabled to preach once on the passage.

Nov. 14. The Thermometer stood nearly 2 degrees above summer heat in the shade this morning at 10 o'clock, Honolulu, Oahu.

Left Oahu on the 18th Nov. on board of the Barque Bhering of Boston, Capt. Snow, for Boston.

(The end)