

# JOURNAL OF JOHN H. FROST, 1840-43

Edited by NELLIE B. PIPES

(In four parts, part II)<sup>1</sup>

BR. K[ONE] & MYSELF had some thoughts of setting our house on the spot where our tent was then standing, but after looking round we discovered that it would be too far to carry the logs; consequently we went about a quarter of a mile to the north, where we found a good spot for building, and where the timber was the most convenient. After deciding that this was the spot we moved camp, and regulated all things in our tent. But then another difficulty presented itself, we found the water in the small stream near at hand to be bad, and fearing that it would be very difficult to obtain good water, without which our place of residence could not be agreeable, we determined before we built to decide this point. But after finding a place where we thought proper to dig for water, we found ourselves destitute of the necessary implements, we had neither hoe, spade, nor shovel; but necessity is the mother of invention, we concluded, as there were no stones, we could use the adze instead of a hoe, and on looking around I picked up an old indian canoe paddle, partly burned up by a fire which had passed over the plain, with which, and a tin pan we supplied the place of a shovel in throwing out the sand. So we set about the work of digging a well, and although we laboured under great disadvantage we succeeded in digging down to the depth of 4 feet where we found very good water, and felt satisfied that we need apprehend no difficulty on that score.

Thus much being accomplished we returned to our tent cooked our supper, which consisted of pork, with cakes, made of unbolted flour, and baked before the fire, and tea, and while we were partaking of our homely meal, the sun having set, I looked out of the door of the tent, which was open, and saw our old neighbour the bear of which I have already made mention, or one of the same family walking deliberately towards the

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<sup>1</sup>Part I was published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, March, 1934, pages 50-73; parts III and IV will appear in September and December.

thicket about 150 yds from our tent. Br. K & myself immediately seized our guns & made towards him, but he had no notion for giving battle for he hastened, with all appearances of a peaceful habit, which always prompts well disposed men to run rather than fight, towards the thicket, where he was soon hid from our view. But as we had taken peaceful possession of that place I thought best to fire a gun, at least, in order to give notice that too frequent visits of that nature, however peaceful, might be attended with danger on the part of the dark colored gentry.

After this exploit we returned and finished our supper, complimenting ourselves for our bravery, &c. After which we read a portion of God's holy word, and called upon his holy name for protection for ourselves & families, and for prosperity in our undertaking, and then we closed our tent, laid ourselves down, and slept sweetly until morning. We arose early, and as Br. K. had a great desire for a dinner of brant, a species of the wild goose, of which there were not a few on the plains, it was agreed that he should take his gun and go in pursuit of them, while I was to commence cutting a road to the timber and prepare breakfast, when I had our breakfast about ready Br. B. returned with a brant in his hand, quite well pleased with the prospect of a good supper. After breakfast we both set about clearing out the road, and before night we accomplished this task, and cut a few sticks of timber; and while we were taking our supper consisting of fresh brant &c which was quite a treat, Br. Smith returned, having left his family in health, and also informing us that Indians would be up the next day to assist us in carrying logs. After conversing for some time we commended ourselves & families to God, and lay down and slept, for God, who always hears the prayers of the penitent, preserved us.

In the morning we arose and Br. S[mith] & myself took our axes and repaired to the woods while Br. K. remained at the tent to cook breakfast, choosing rather to cook than to chop trees. When we returned to breakfast several indians were on the spot, and six or seven of them engaged to carry logs. Among the number was the head man of the Clatsop band, whose name is Kotatie. I do not wish to be understood to say that Kotata carried logs, far from it. I say head man, for the Clatsops and indeed all the indians in this region, have properly no chiefs;

they having all passed away. The last chiefs of the Clatsops having been killed by the Hudson bay company for the real or supposed murder of some of their men, which were thrown on this shore from one of their vessels, which was wrecked on the coast.<sup>2</sup>

I had a pow-wow with Kotatie, and after he express his gratification in view of our settling among them, and gave us assurance of a friendly intercourse, we again repaired to the wood with the indians who commenced carrying logs to the brink of the ridge which lay between the timber and our building spot. Br. S. & myself chopped with all our might, cutting trees from six to eight inches over at the butt & eighteen by twenty feet long, which was the size we designed to build; and before sun set we had all the logs cut for the square of the house, and had them all shoved down to the bottom of the ridge. Being now wried we returned to the tent, where Br. Kone had a fine supper prepared, consisting of Brant & ducks, which the indians now supplied us with in abundance, and cakes, as before made of bran and all, and tea, which we considered good enough for our friends in the city of N.Y. Again we slept in quietness, and a number of the indians continued with us. The next day being saturday we arose early and Br. S & myself with the Indians carried out the logs to the spot, where we designed to lay them up, by breakfast time; and before night we had a considerable part of the square of the house laid up. The next day being sabbath, we had prayr meeting, and enjoyed ourselves very well, feeling that the Lord was with us.

On Monday morning we set about laying up the house, and succeeded in getting up nearly all the remainder of the square. But in the afternoon we were astonished, and indeed my heart was very much pained, to see indians from Mr. Birnie's who informed us that our wives were coming. I immediately left my work & set out to meet them; I found them about one mile from the place where we were at work, nearly exhausted with the fatigue of the journey and the load they had brought, be-

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<sup>2</sup>The *William & Ann*, wrecked on Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River in March, 1829; Bancroft, *Northwest Coast*, II, 498-99; Smith, in Oregon Historical Society, *Proceedings*, 1899, 78-81.

sides coming in a canoe about eight miles, they had travelled about six miles some of the way through the mire, where they would sometimes sink in over their knees, besides fording two creeks the best way they could; in addition to which they had each of them a basket of bread, which in the goodness of their hearts, they had prepared for us, supposing that our fare was much worse than it was and Mrs. F. had also our little boy with her who had to be carried most of the way.

Although we were very happy to see them, yet we feared that they had been imprudent in coming, and in so doing had exposed their health. As our supply of provisions was nearly exhausted we determined that Br. S & myself should set out in the morning with our families for Fort George, in company with Mrs. Birnie who had come with our wives. After spending the night with our families in our small tent as well as we could we arose in the morning took breakfast, got up the beams of our house and then set out for the Skapanowin; having found a shorter road, we reached the canoe with less fatigue, I carried the little boy and our wives had no burden to carry as they had when they came; but in passing the marshy part of the road they were obliged to take off their shoes and stockings to prevent them from having wet feet the remainder of the journey.

We had left Br. Kone to take care of the tent without any company, but trusted that God would preserve him until the next day, when we expected to return. We arrived at Fort George in the afternoon in safety and arranged our provisions, tools &c &c so as to be ready for our departure when the tide should serve in the morning. We took my cooking stove on board, that we might have it ready for use when the house should be covered. The next morning finding the weather & all things favourable we loaded our canoe and set out for the plain; encouraging Mrs. F. & K. to be of good cheer for one week longer, when we hoped to have our house covered, and then we would come and transport them to the place, where we hoped to enjoy the sweets of domestic society under our own roof. Being favoured we reached the landing on the Skapanowin and unloaded the canoe, laying our things upon the ground. And now we had as before noticed, a cooking stove, our provisions, a keg of nails, three double window sash &c &c. These

were to be transported all of three miles to the house upon our backs, and one mile of the way was very bad, being marshy part of the way, and the rest of the way was woods through which ran two or three small streams which had to be crossed on logs. But there was no time to dally, we therefore commenced packing our stuff into loads, and carrying them out to the plains, we found it exceedingly fatigueing. the keg which contained 100 lbs of nails, I found to be exceedinly trying to my back while I carried it out to the plain, also the bottom plate of the stove (Frasier's Patent No. 4) which I carried half of the way from the canoe to the plain.

We succeeded however in lugging all our stuff except the keg of nails, and bottom plate of the stove, which we left at the edge of the plain, to within about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the house, here we left the stove, and packed the rest on our backs, and reached the top of the ridge, which was in sight of the house, just as the sun was setting. I halloed as soon as I reached the top of the ridge, which was speedily answered by Br. Kone as he was going from the tent to get a pail of water. He was much rejoiced at our return, as he had spent a very lonely night, having had no company except an indian girl and small boy, who came to the camp the night before. We found a number of indians however arround the fire, which I believe, upon recollection, had arrived the night previous; these however, were a great embarassment to Br. Kone, inasmuch as he could converse but very little with them, and feared, as he was not acquainted with them, that they might commit some depredation. But we found all in safety, and the indians were enjoying themselves remarkably well, having shot our old neighbour, the bear, and was roasting portions of it before the fire. We had a piece of the bear for our supper & found it to be very fine flavored meet. After supper, and once more commending ourselves to the protection of our heavenly Father we lay down to rest our weary limbs.

The next morning we arose in good health & set about finishing the house, which we accomplished so far as to get it laid up, the shingles sawed and split and put on by the next.

In the mean time Br. Kone was making preparations for putting in the door and windows. On [blank] we set out again

for Ft. George that we might bring our families over to take up their abode in our new cabin, leaving Br. K to get in the door and windows. We arrived at the fort about noon, and finding Mrs. F & K so anxious to remove that we concluded to return the same day. We accordingly packed up our beds, and such clothing as would be necessary for present use, and putting the remainder of our stuff in Mr. Birnie's store house, we set about loading the canoe; but before our load was prepared I recd notice from Mr. Birnie who was then on board of the ship *Farager*<sup>3</sup> Capt. Thompson, which had just returned from Vancouver, that I must take care of my flour and lumber which Dr. McLaughlin had sent down for us, and which was being put ashore on the bank of the river. This was adding greatly to my burden, which was already sufficiently heavy; but there was no time for demurring so I went down with my help and carried up the flour to the store house, there being 100 lbs in a bag, it tired me exceedingly, but I felt thankful when one difficult task was accomplished, although another as difficult lay before me.

I shall never forget with what disdain the English Capt looked down upon me, as I was tugging and toiling, and appearing, no doubt more like a menial than like a minister of the Gospel, or as a missionary. But God looks at the heart. But I felt as though circumstances rendered it necessary, and therefore my duty, thus to toil at that time, so I encouraged myself with the thought that if I was found in the way of duty, the Lord would own my labours, and at last give me a place in the mansions of rest.

After securing the flour, and informing Mr. Birnie that some of us would be over in a day or two and take care of the lumber we loaded our canoe, and set out for the plain. Having eat nothing since early in the morning, we became very hungry, our families being in the same condition with ourselves. And we had nothing with us prepared to eat except a few cakes which Mrs. F. & K had made some days before. These we divided among the whole company, which in a measure satisfied our craving appetites for the present. The sun had set and it began

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<sup>3</sup>The *Forager*, a vessel belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

to grow dark as soon as we had crossed Young's Bay and reached the Clatsop shore, but we proceeded up the Skapanowin until we reached the landing. It was now in the night and three miles lay between us and our house, and as we deemed it unsafe for us to attempt to cross the marsh, and the water in the woods in the night, we had nothing to do but set about making the best provisions that we could for the night. This we did by taking the things out of the canoe and laying them upon the oars, which we lay with one end upon a log, and the other end upon the ground. The ground being perfectly filled with water at this place, and so marshy that it could be shaken for several rods around; after which we drew the canoes ashore, and laid some boards in the same on the top of the cross bars, on which we placed the beds, and thus prepared lodging for Mrs. F. & K. and our little Emory, and a little half breed girl which Mrs. K. had taken to rear. We then struck a fire, having found a few sticks, which were very scarce within a quarter of a mile, the distance between us and the timber. After some time we prevailed on the ladies to retire, a strange bedroom indeed, but they found room to lay down, and after covering themselves we fixed a pole over them, over which we spread a couple of sheets, which formed a kind of tent, and now, supposing they would be tollerably comfortable for the night, I determined to watch all night, but Br. Smith being very weary, took a mat, and lay down in the grass and fell asleep. I remained sitting on a mat over the remains of our small fire, in company with the two indians, and an indian girl that were with us; after about an hour had elapsed the Indian girl said, "alta sanas," that is, we will now have rain. And sure enough, in a moment it commenced raining, which was far from our expectations that night. I awoke Br. Smith, who was shivering with the cold, from having lain upon a frail mat upon the wet ground, with no covering over him.

We found ourselves in possession of two umbrellas one of which we set over our flour &c. and the other we held over ourselves, while we set ourselves down upon a mat, quite damp with having lain on the wet ground, over our fire, which was very small indeed, there being but one stick left. We succeeded in burning that in two and then by putting one end a little pass

the other, and by frequent blowing we succeeded in keeping a blaze.

The showers were frequent and heavy, which soon began to wet the ladies through the temporary tent bedding and all. We however encouraged them to be as quiet as possible, and with patience wait for the morning. That was a very long night, so much so, that Br. S & myself became very hungry. So having some flour in bags, I got some out in a wooden ladle, with which we bailed the canoe, and gave it to one of the indians to make some cakes, he took it and went to the water side, and mixed it up with some water and then returned to the fire to bake it, but having nothing but the ladle in which to place it before the fire to bake it, he sat down on the ground and laid the dough on his bear knees, while he placed a few little sticks across the bowl of the ladle; after this was prepared he spread out the dough into a cake on his knees, and then placed it upon the ladle and set it up before the fire to bake. After the cake was baked through I divided it among the company sitting around the fire, and we decided, notwithstanding the strange way it had been prepared, that it was a very sweet cake. Indeed it relished so well that we had the second, or third prepared much in the same way. After eating our dough cake, the indian lay down in the grass to sleep, while Br. S. & myself set under the umbrella blowing our two brands and talking the remainder of the night, being asked, not unfrequently by the ladies if it was not near day. We watched with great anxiety for the first tokens of the dawn, which at last appeared and I can assure my readers, that the day was never hailed with greater joy by me. After it became sufficiently light to move, our family arose, finding themselves wet and chilly. then we decided that I should set out immediately with the women and children for the house, while Br. S. & our indian help would be getting the stuff out to the plain. So Mrs. F. put on a pair of my boots and Mrs. K. her india rubber over shoes, and prepared the little girl as well as we could for the journey, when I took my little boy on my back and led the way towards the house, our new place of abode; encouraging the ladies, who felt not much like travelling over such a road, after such a nights rest, with the idea that Br. K would be very glad to see us, and would have a



fine breakfast of wild fowl prepared for us when we arrived. Although it was very fatiguing, we arrived in safety at our cabin, where we found that Br. Kone had succeeded in getting in one window, and the door; he was in health, and had as I had predicted, a pair of brant finely roasted in the cooking stove, and some very good unleavened bread prepared for our reception, after sending back a boy with some breakfast for Br. S. we sat down on what we could find, for we had no chairs, neither had we any table, but placed a bit of board on some sticks, which answered a very good substitute, and partook of the bounties of our Heavenly Father with thankfulness, under what we now considered our own roof.

But let it not be thought that we had now passed through our greatest difficulties, for now our goods were mostly at Fort George, and also our provisions. And as the rain which commenced falling on the night that we encamped at the Skapanouin was the commencement of the rainy season, we were admonished that no time was to be lost in resting our weary frames if we succeeded in removing our goods &c which we much needed.

Therefore after setting up our bedsteads on the ground, for we had no floor in our cabin, and spreading some dry fern about my cooking stove, and elsewhere over the damp ground, we concluded that Brs. Kone & Smith should return to the fort the next day, pile our lumber and bring over a load of provisions &c and I was to meet them at the canoe landing the next day to assist in getting them to the house. So after commending ourselves to the care of our heavenly Father we retired, and the morning found us in usual health. When according to the arrangement already made, Brs. K & S set out with a few Indians for the fort, while I continued with the family through the day, and employed myself in corking our cabin with moss, which had not yet been completed, and the doing of which strained one of the muscles of my right arm which caused it to swell and to be very painful for sometime. Having passed through the day and following night I left the cabin the next morning in charge of our wives and proceeded to the place where I was to meet the Brethren, and after arriving there & waiting about an hour they arrived, having brought with them

a barrel of pork, a barrel of salmon, and one of molasses, besides a number of other articles. Br. Kone left soon after landing and took with him some things to the house while Br. S. & myself and the Indians succeeded in getting the casks across to the timber where we concluded to leave them until the next day and proceeded with the other things to the house, all of which made a very difficult and wearisome days work. The next day I obtained several Indians, and with them, proceeded in order to bring the pork, salmon and molasses to the house. this was accomplished by taking the pork and salmon out of the barrels, and putting it in bags & mats each containing a load for one man, and then two men carried each a barrel. The molasses cask I slung to a pole with a rope which two stout indians carried. Thus we succeeded in getting this load to our house. Having now a supply of food for some weeks, Br. S. set about preparing for his own family, which were still at the other end of the plain. He obtained a few plank of an indian, and having helped him to cut some crotches and poles, I assisted him in putting up a cabin about eight by 10 feet, which we covered with shingles. His family then came up and took up their lodgings in the same, which was poor enough.

We then set about chopping down trees and splitting plank for a floor in our cabin, as this would be far easier than to transport our boards from fort George. We succeeded thus in getting a floor in the lower part of the house as far as to where the beds stood. And having bought rush mats of the Indians, we put them up around the wall to keep out the cold as much as we could. In the mean time Br. S. got out logs for a house for himself 15 feet square, which I helped him lay up.

The month of December now arrived, and the South east storms began to beat upon us which were tremendous. When we covered our house, we did not make calculations for such tremendous blowing rains, consequently the rain beat through the south east side of the roof and wet all that part of the house, which was a great affliction to us, especially as Br. Kones bed could not be kept dry, and the more than usual degree of moisture or dampness thus brought into the house rendered it very unhealthy.

But we endeavoured to bear up under the complication of

difficulties, commending our cause to God, and hoping for better times.

And I can truly say that my spirits never flagged during the whole, but I felt that I was doing what circumstances had rendered my duty, and that God would cause all things to work together for good if we faithfully served and loved him. And then the hope of being instrumental in planting the Gospel standard in this benighted region, was a powerful stimulant to action. About the middle of Dec. arrived and we found that our store of flour began to run low, so that it was necessary to make another trip to the Fort, which however, we dreaded exceedingly, inasmuch as the way from the plain to the creek had become exceedingly difficult in consequence of the vast amount of water which had already fallen, which way we did not expect previous to our locating on the plain, would be thus affected, as it was dry in the summer and fall.

But our flour we must have, and other things also. So Br. Smith set out again with some indian help for the Fort.

On our arrival at that place we found that Mr. Tibits, whom we had been looking for had arrived; a black man,<sup>4</sup> who deserted from the Brig *Maryland*, being with him. This was a source of joy to us as we now hoped to have another help meet in our little neighborhood &c.

After we hailed our newly arrived friend and had conversed with him some time, when we concluded to load our canoe and return to the Clatsop shore, Mr. T. at the same time made preparations to go with us. After all was in readiness we set out and reached the Clatsop shore in time to proceed about half way up the creek where we encamped for the night, in the morning we arose and proceeded to the old landing place, and after getting our things on shore, which was a complete quag Mr. Tibits became discouraged and seriously meditated returning to Ft. George. But we prevailed on him to go through to the plain, believing that if he got a view of the plain he would be inspirited to go on. We succeeded in reaching the plain with all our effects after very hard struggling, and sinking into the

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<sup>4</sup>The name of this negro was Wallace; Lee and Frost, *Ten Years in Oregon*, 293.

mire up to our knees, and Mr. T. at one time sank nearly up to his middle.

I went from the creek several times with a bag containing 100 lbs of flour on my back, besides carrying many other things. After we arrived at the plain we determined, never to bring a load that way again if it could be avoided; as many such trips would most certainly break us down altogether.

But to be short, and indeed it sickens my heart to think of those scenes, we reached our house with all our effects just at dark, Mr. T. having left some of his things in his tent on the plain, arrived also, and took supper with us, after which he went over to Br. S's to spend the night. O how glad was I after such toil and perplexity to stretch myself upon the bed and rest my weary limbs.

Mr. Tibits having manifested so much discouragement that Br. Smith became much disheartened, and indeed it cast a gloom over all our minds. But still we trusted in God and hoped for better days. I should have said that previous to this Br. K & myself had succeeded in putting up a cabin, in addition to our house, about 10 by 12 feet in size, which was covered with shingles, for the accommodation of our indian visitors, who frequently staid all night, and who would lodge in the house when there was no other cover. Frequently has there been a half a dozen of them lying on the floor all night, while we had nothing to screen us from their view, but some sheets which our ladies hung up as a partition. This we deemed to be the most prudent way as by turning them out of doors might have offended them, and then our lives and property would have been in danger.

After a few days Br. Smith, Mr. Tibits and Br. K. and myself set out in order if possible to find a way for a road in a northerly direction from our place through the woods to the bay, taking an indian for our guide. We travelled through to the bay, a distance of from 3 to 4 miles.

After examining the shore to some extent, and thinking that there might be a road cut through, I spoke of the propriety of

putting up a building at some future time near this place<sup>5</sup> for a store house if not for a dwelling.

When it was observed by one that it would be a less difficult task to put up a house at that place at once, and move our families into it as soon as might be, than it would be to reach the plain with our future supplies, and the remainder of our goods, the heaviest part of which still remained at Ft. George; Mr. Tibits & Smith at the same time offered to assist. This however was a consideration of great importance, and not to be undertaken rashly. So we returned to the plain without undertaking to decide the point. After some days deliberation, and fervent prayer to Almighty God for direction we again talked over the subject of building on the bay. And after bringing all the arguments we could for and against it we decided that it be our best course, notwithstanding it was the dead of winter, to build. Which if we accomplished would be the most convenient place for us to reside for the purpose of circulating amongst the indians. And, as we had been encouraged to believe, that a farmer would be sent down to the plain, where abundant supplies could be raised for this and other stations; there would be a house ready for his reception. Therefore, with the prosperity of the cause of God in view, we made preparations, and on the 24th of December, [1840], we set out for the place where we contemplated building. Mr. Tibits and Wallace, the black man, and an indian, going by the way of the Skapanowin, to take our provisions and tools down in a canoe, while Brs. S. & K. and myself went by the way of the beach. According to appointment, we met on the spot; after viewing of which the second time I must say I felt exceedingly discouraged and proposed to abandon the project; but the men employed were anxious to proceed believing it to be not so difficult an undertaking as I feared, and Br. Kone also was anxious that if possible a house should be put up. So I told Mr. Tibits and Wallace they might commence cutting the timber, and Brs. Kone, Smith and myself concluded to return to the plain, which we accordingly did & arrived at our house just at night fall. This being

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<sup>5</sup>On the Columbia River, half way between Youngs Bay and Point Adams; Lee and Frost, 294.

thursday we heard no more from our men until the following Sabbath when Wallace arrived and informed us that they had part of the timber cut & wished directions relative to the spot where to set the house. I informed him that I would go up on monday and give directions and assist in the work myself. Accordingly when monday arrived set out for the Bay in company with Br. Smith, leaving Br. Kone to take charge of the family.

We arrived at the bay time enough in the afternoon to select the spot on which to build & moved our tent near by. On tuesday we set about cutting the trees which stood nearest the spot and laid the foundation of the house. During that week we had good weather, and succeeded in carrying the logs together and laying the house as far as the beams, eight feet, and 20 by 30 on the ground.

We hoped by the termination of the next week to get the house covered. I returned home on saturday quite late, the walk being seven miles, much fatigued from having assisted in carrying the logs, and laying them up and lodging on the damp ground at night in a frail tent; our food consisting of salt salmon and pork, and unleavened bread baked as before mentioned, besides this we had tea, sugar, and sometimes molasses. Found my family tollerably well.

On the following monday Br. Kone and Smith repaired to the Bay, while I remained in charge of the family. Although it was a great satisfaction for me to be with my family, yet I found my labour to be but little less than at the bay; for besides doing other necessary chowers for the family, I was obliged to cut and carry all our fire wood on my back. Yet in the midst of all that I was not disheartened, but still encouraged myself in God and hoped to see the glory of God revealed in the future prosperity of this missionary post.

That week was rainy part of the time, and Br Kone having gone to Ft. George for our lumber, which we concluded to raft across the Bay, got very wet and cold, having been nearly one whole night on the river labouring to get the raft down, while at the same time it rained very much & they with great difficulty succeeded in saving the most of the lumber after getting the raft ashore, for when the tide came in it was stove and scat-

tered along the beach. So on friday Br. Kone & Smith returned very much broken down with their past toil.

At this time a whale was driven on shore at the southern extremity of the plain, and Mr. Tibits left the work and went down to get some of the bluber for lamp oil.

So there was no one left at the bay but Wallace the black man. On the monday morning following Br. Smith was sick. So I set out alone for the bay, determining with the assistance of Wallace to go forward with the house as well as I could until Mr. Tibits should return, and Br. Smith get well enough to work again.

I arrived at the Bay early in the day, having travelled very fast, and found Wallace very much cast down, as it had snowed some the night before, and was cold and dreary. He had just commenced work, and I cheered him up as well as I could, and we set about hewing the beams for the house, which had been commenced the week previous, under the direction of Br. Kone. At the same time I engaged some indians to gather the lumber together at the house from where it was strewed along the beach.

We continued to labour until wednesday noon when Mr. Tibits arrived bringing with him bluber enough to make nearly a barrel of Oil.

I was very glad to see him and then having the beams hewed we backed them to the house and got them up, these I fitted to their places while Mr. Tibits and Wallace went in search of shingle timber. After getting the plates up we found that there had been a mistake made in their preparation, and as I had no knowledge of the framing business I set out on friday to council Br. Kone on the subject, and left the men to be getting out the shingles.

When I arrived at home I found Mrs. Kone quite ill, having been taken with vomiting two or three days before. This was a sore affliction to all of us especially as she supposed herself to be within a few weeks of her confinement.

However, we hoped and prayed that the Lord would rebuke the disease, and we thought of sending for medical aid; but then we were 160 miles from the Willamette where our nearest physician resided, and 100 miles from Vancouver where resided

the H. B. Co's physicians. And it was in the dead of winter, and doubtful whether we could get Indians to go on an express for us at that time. But we concluded that it would be best for me to endeavour to get two indians to go up the river with a small canoe, that we might acquaint our brethren of our situation, and if possible get a physician to come to our aid. I accordingly set out for the Bay and on my way, having Br. S. with me, we endeavoured to obtain two indians who would go on the express for us but all in vain; they said the river was frozen over at Oak point, some distance above this, and consequently it was not possible to ascend the river at that time. I sent a note to Bro. Kone containing this information, and we went to our work hoping that the Lord would provide some way for us in this critical time.

We laboured on until the middle or nearly the close of the week, when I rec'd a note from Br. Kone & Mrs. Frost stating that Sister Kone's illness had increased in violence, so much so that she had thrown up blood from her lungs. This intelligence alarmed us very much, so after consulting with those about me we determined if possible to send up an express to Vancouver and Willamette, as it had rained so that we presumed the river was open; so after some difficulty we succeeded in getting two indians to consent to go in company with the indian boy Mr. Tibits had in employ. This being evening it was determined that I should return to the family in the morning and prepare letters, so that the canoe might set out as soon as possible. I accordingly returned in the morning, and found Sister Kone in a truly alarming condition, we prepared our letters, requesting Dr. McLaughlin to send us a physician if possible and to hasten out express towards the Willamette.

We sent an indian with a line to Br. Smith at the Bay who had consented to get the indians off as soon as possible. I continued with the family until the next monday or sometime in the week following, when finding Sister K. a little more comfortable I set out again for the Bay, during the next week we succeeded in getting the house mostly covered by friday about noon when Mr. Birnie came over with his wife and 4 or 5 of his children expressing a desire to go down to the plains to make our folks a visit, so nothing would do but I must accom-



pany them, so to gratify them I left my work and went down to the house with them. By this time Sister Kone health was, through the means we had used and the blessing of God upon them, in a great measure restored, and she might have done well without sending for a physician at this time, but this we could not foresee; But it was necessary to send to Willamette at any rate, for our provisions could hold out but a few weeks at any rate, and neither of us could leave to go for a new recruit.

However, on Sabbath, Dr. Barkley<sup>6</sup> from Ft Vancouver arrived, and kindly administered such medicines as Sister K's case demanded and left directions for the future.

At this time, in consequence of daily toil, and exposures many, Mrs. Frost's strength failed very fast, which was a great source of grief to me. And Dr. Barkley assured me that the nature of her case was such that unless she could have rest and medical treatment, she must unavoidably go down. But rest she could not have, as Sister K's condition rendered her unable to do but little; consequently the most of the care of the family devolved on Mrs. F. and domestic help was out of the question.

Sister Kone was so far recovered that on monday Br. Kone set out in company with Dr. B. and Mr. Birnie's family for the Bay, designing to remain through the week and forward the house at that place.

On Friday if I do not mistake he returned bringing intelligence that our express had arrived, having letters from the Superintendent<sup>7</sup> and others, which informed us that Dr. Babcock had just returned from the Dalls, and was unwell, and that they had concluded that he would not come down to our place until they should hear from us again; and as it respected supplies, Br. Abernethy, our secular agent, would write, and we would be supplied if possible.

Thus were we left at that time with much on our hands to do, our bodies broken down with toil, Sister Kone expecting to be confined in two or three weeks, and no certainty of getting

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<sup>6</sup>Dr. Forbes Barclay, physician for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver; came from Scotland in 1840; died at Oregon City May 12, 1873.

<sup>7</sup>Jason Lee.

supplies when the little we had left, was gone. But still my heart did not sink. Br. Kone often spoke of leaving the country, and I began to think that if we were to be thus subject to toil and exposure continually; so much so, that we were unable to attend to getting the language of the indians, to whom we were especially sent, and unto whom we were charged *first of all* to preach Christ and him crucified. And in order that we might attend to this our high and responsible calling, the Missionary Board had sent out men to build us houses and provide provision for our families. And the manner in which we were obliged to labour was not only preventing us at the present from performing that work which we were sent to do, but we found that it was laying the foundation to destroy forever our usefulness as Missionaries or Ministers of the gospel. But I endeavoured to cast away these and the like thoughts hoping soon to see a canoe or boat arrive with provisions for our families and a physician to attend Sister Kone during her time of trial. And endeavoured to encourage my dear fellow labourers, and sufferers to hold on trusting in God. Br. Kone returned to the Bay again on the following monday hoping to get one room ready, so that we might remove the last of the week, if Sister K's health would permit.

But on the following tuesday or wednesday we had a fall of snow, the like of which the oldest men among the Indians had no recollection of, which I thought would render it impossible for us to remove to the Bay that week. The snow was seven inches deep on the plain! ! !

But on friday afternoon Br. K. returned informing us that one room of our new house would do for us to inhabit, and urged the propriety of removing the next day; as Sister K. was tollerably well, and it was very uncertain how long she would be so, and if we did not remove while she was able to go we would be under the necessity of bringing our next supplies down to the plain, the thought of which was enough under our present circumstances.

But then, how should we get our families to our new house. Seven miles intervened between us and that. Mrs. Kone could not walk and then there was Mrs. Frost, not by any means in a good state of health, besides our little Emory, between 4 & 5

years old, and the little girl Sister Kone had under her care. But Br. Kone had engaged some indians to come down in the morning to assist us. So we made a kind of bier on which we fastened a chair, on which we proposed to carry Mrs. Kone, Mrs. F. proposing to walk with the children.

So we prepared our beds, and a little provisions &c. and in the morning we were in readiness to make a push in good season, and we were favoured with a good day. But the indians did not arrive according to promise which was very discouraging. Yet we determined to reach our new habitation that day with our families if possible. So about 10 O'clock we set out, Mrs. Frost taking the lead with the two little ones, next followed Br. Kone & myself, and I am at a loss to describe the appearance we made; but I will endeavour to set our condition before you as plain as I can, so that you may judge for yourself. Mrs. Kone was placed on a chair, along side of which, two poles were fastened which formed something like a bier. I stepped in between the poles in front and Br. Kone in the rear, taking the end of the poles in our hands, one on each side. In addition to this, I had the bag of provisions slung on my back. Thus we raised our load and proceeded about a quarter of a mile; but here we were obliged to halt, finding that our load was too heavy. Br. K. ran down to Br. S's house to get a piece of a rope that we might harness ourselves differently, and on his way met an indian, asked him to help, but no, he had to go to such a place. Br. K. returned when I took down the provision bag and lashed it on the Carryall, and then we tied a rope to each end of the poles, which ropes were just long enough to rest on our necks, while the poles rested in our hands. Being thus harnessed somewhat more to the purpose we recommenced our journey, mentioning after we had proceeded a short distance that Sister Kone would never forget that ride.

In this way we succeeded in reaching the sea beach, which was one mile distant from the place where we set out. From this place we discovered some indians coming two or three miles a head of us, and we concluded that they were the indians that had engaged to come down in the morning to assist us, which, when they came up to us, we found to be the case.

There being six or seven of them, we concluded that Br.

Kone would go back with some of them and get our beds &c., while I would take two and proceed with the family. So after some palaver one indian consented to take hold with me and carry Mrs. K, which, however, was not considered a very high or respectable office by him, I presume; as the indian women would be more likely to be seen carrying the men, than the men to be seen carrying the women. Another took the bag of provisions &c and we seperated Br. K. going towards the place from whence we set out in the morning & I, with the family, proceeded by the sea beach, towards the bay. We succeeded in reaching Point Adams at the Clatsop village late in the afternoon, Mrs. Kone walking a little at intervals, when my little boy would take her place on the Carryall. Here we succeeded in getting the head man's large canoe and two men to manage it; all hands got aboard, and we hoped soon to land at our house, it being now but two miles off up the Bay. But the tide was flowing and there was some wind, so that the water was quite rough, and the canoe rocked to that degree that Sister Kone became very much affritened and we were obliged to go ashore, and arrange Sister K. upon the chair once more; but we soon succeeded in reaching the house, exceedingly wearied with the journey. And for several days afterward I imagined I could feel that rope across my neck. But I felt very happy that we had succeeded in removing Sister Kone so comfortably, however difficult the task had been. Mrs. Frost and the children were also very much fatigued but we comforted ourselves with the thought, that the same trial would not have to be passed through again.

The Indians returned with the canoe in time to take Br. Kone and the goods he brought on board, and a little after dark he arrived at the house in safety. So after we partook of some refreshment we prepared our beds and retired to rest.

Now the sabbath returned and we endeavoured to spend it in a christian manner. The next week was spent in getting up the rest of our goods from the plain with the help of the Indians, which we succeeded in effecting with the exception of a few things.

We now set about preparing the other part of our house that we might render our situation as comfortable as we could. A

week or two passed away, and having heard no more from Willamette. Mrs. Kone, as before observed, was soon to be confined, with no female assistant but Mrs. Frost, and her health failing. No one within reach that knew anything of midwifery or of administering medicines should serious disease follow.

Our supplies were soon to be exhausted, and no prospect of receiving more; go after them we could not. All these things considered, besides many more which I shall not now record, in addition with the prospect that if we continued here, we must continue to perform the like manual labour, only of a little different quality, which had already prostrated our physical energies, so that the prospect of usefulness among the natives as missionaries were soon to be forever cut off, and by thus perverting our calling and destroying our calling's hope, render our latter days, days of gloom and darkness; I determined to inform the Superintendent that I should embrace the first favourable opportunity to return with my family to the U. S. which I accordingly did by Br. Smith who went up to the Willamette soon afterwards. Mr. Kone also wrote to the same effect.

In about two weeks afterwards, two canoes hove in sight, and when they reached our shore they proved to contain Brs. Leslie, Waller and Dr. Babcock<sup>8</sup> from the Willamette, they also had some unbolted flour, and pork, and lard for our use.

Finding Mrs. Kone still able to be about, they determined to remove her to Vancouver, but circumstances were such that I felt it my duty to remain, although we must now be more lonely than ever. So in three or four days they took their departure. Going with them as far as Ft. George I brought back a canoe load of my goods, which had been lying there since I came down from Vancouver with my family.

The following night we spent alone, there being no civilized man nearer to us than Ft. George. But the next morning before we were out of bed some one rapped at the door, when after enquiring who it was, I recognized the voice of Br. Smith, who had returned during the night from the Willamette. He had succeeded in getting a boat of Dr. McLaughlin and with much

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<sup>8</sup>Ira L. Babcock, the physician for the Methodist mission.

difficulty had brought down a pair of horses, with which to commence farming on the Clatsop plain.

That day Br. Smiths family came into one room of our house from an indian lodge where they had been during his absence, so we were blessed again with company. Br. Smith left again in two or three days in order to take the boat back to Vancouver and bring down his canoe which he had left. During his absence Mr. Tibits arrived from Willamette whither he had been after supplies &c. Thus did the Lord appear to order affairs, so that we were not long destitute of civilized society, although it consisted of but one man besides my own family.

Br. Smith returned in due season, and by him I recd a note from Br. Kone informing us that his family was well, and that he had concluded to stay a little longer in the country.

After Br. Smith returned he assisted Mr. Tibits several days in laying up a house for the latter, 15 feet square of round logs, as it was now our custom. After getting that laid up to the beams, Br. Smith made preparations and left with his family for the plain, that he might get in some wheat and peas &c. for the future sustinance of his family, leaving his oldest daughter in our care, a very pretty little girl, about [blank] years old. So we had no company again but our old friend Mr. Tibits. Since I wrote to the Superintendent by Br. Smith I recd two letters from him, both of which gave me great pain; but no farther mention will be made of them in this place. My cause is before the Lord, and I would fully confide in his goodness & wisdom to preserve me and mine, although in an indian country surrounded with intense darkness, and to guide us in that way that will be acceptable in his sight. O! what degradation do we witness every day. What wretchedness have we seen since we have sojourned in this wilderness! Is not the time coming when this desert will bud and blossom? Is not the day hastening on when the peaceful reign of the Messiah shall be established here, where our fellow men are universally led captive by the Devil at his will? O Lord hasten to come and take possession of the purchase of thy blood. Turn and overturn, until the wickedness of the wicked shall come to an end, and when righteousness and truth shall universally prevail.

APRIL 22. Today indians arrived from Vancouver bringing

a note from Br. Kone by which we were informed that Sister Kone gave birth to a male child on the morning of the 18th inst. and that all was well.

I also recd a note from Br. Lee, by which he informed me that he had just returned from Nesqually in company with Dr. Richmond, and expressed a hope that he should see me at the yearly meeting at Willamette on the first monday in May, when we would talk over all the past & make the best possible arrangements for the future.

This was more friendly than I had anticipated, considering what I had previously recd.

I had determined, several days since, to go up about that time and leave my family at Vancouver, while I would go to Willamette, if Divine providence favoured us, and Mrs. Frost was making preparations accordingly. Br. Smith having agreed to come up and take care of our house and property during our absence.

I find my strength much impaired, and it is with a considerable pain that I am able to cut & cleave & prepare the wood for the stove, after carrying it on my back, and do the rest of the chowers. But my hope is in God, and I still have an earnest desire for the salvation of these poor heathen. While I record this Mrs. Frost lies by my side on the bed sick with the headache, and our little boy is playing about the floor in very good health and spirits, jabering the jargon, which is used by the natives in their communication with the whites, and which he acquires much more readily than I could wish.

It will be perceived that my journal, since the 28th of Sept last has been written in the past tence and without date. This is owing to its having been left at Fort George with our goods, when we left there for the plain, and which has not come to hand until recently, so that what is written since that date is written from my recollections of the past.

The geese are migrating to the North in great abundance, and those that are taken at the present time are in a very good state, quite fat.

The Salmon season has already commenced, and on the 24th [April, 1841] we were invited to partake of three very fine large ones, which were taken by the people of Wasalsal's lodge; the first taken by them this season. They were prepared in the

following manner. One man, and only one, dressed the fish by cutting around just below the gills, and then down the back from head to tail; then the flesh was taken off horizontally from head to tail in one piece, then the back bone with the head, ribs and tail attached to it, was laid upon sticks, which were laid up like a scaffold over a fire in the centre of the lodge, to roast. After which they brought the sticks which were prepared for the purpose, upon which, after they were rubbed with the blood, the horizontal pieces were fastened, when they were set up around the fire to roast, by sticking one end of the stick in the ground. The intrails were also put upon stick by the slaves and put up before the fire in the same way.

After the fish were thus put up to roast, the man who cut them washed his hands & knife in a trough of water, and then poured the water around the fire; after which the mat upon which the fish were cut was hung up near the fire, that the blood might dry. In about an hour after we entered the lodge the fish was sufficiently roasted, now the man who cut the salmon, took up the horizontal pieces, which are by far the best part of the fish, and placed them crosswise upon a large shallow trough; then our plates were called for, we having two with us, & the cook placed them upon a clean mat, and filled them with the best part of the salmon, and then placed them before us upon the clean mat, which they had prepared for our seat. Two strange indians having come in, they were served next; after which the remainder was distributed among the inmates of the lodge, and all with the exception of the cook, feasted abundantly.

A richer and better flavoured fish was, perhaps, never eaten by man, in any part of the world.

After we had eaten all we wished, we enquired what must be done with what remained upon our plates. We were told that it must not be taken out of the house but that we might come on the morrow in the afternoon and eat it; but after they were informed that we did not wish any more of it, they removed it from the plates, and washed the plates knives and forks, so that none might go out of doors.

They informed us that if any of the salmon was taken out of doors, or if the man who prepared them eat any, or if the sal-



mon was not cut in the before mentioned manner, and roasted in the same way, the weather would become stormy & they would not be able to catch any more salmon. This rule they observe until the strawberries ripen which is about a month.

On the next day we were invited again to partake of salmon with our neighbours. They had succeeded in taking eight in the morning. Mr. Tibits and myself accepted the invitation, and were gratified with seeing them cook the eight salmon as before described, and also gratified our appetite with a very fine piece of one of them.

The cooking of the salmon in a particular manner, and generally in but one house belonging to the same band, and to which the whole band repairs to eat, their eating only in the after part of the day, for the length of time before described, and their caution that none shall go out of doors, appears to be a kind of sacred right, which is strictly observed by all the natives in this region. After this certain time is fulfilled they commence trading, when every man and woman may cook, and eat their salmon as they see fit.

APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> [1841]. We have all things in readiness for our trip up the river. On Sabbath afternoon an American vessel came across the bar and ascended the river a little farther up than where we live, where she stuck upon the sand. In the evening I boarded her and found her to be the *Thomas Perkins*<sup>9</sup> of Salem, Capt. Varney. The captain informed us that the American exploring<sup>10</sup> squadron, consisting of four sail, might be looked for every day, the *Thomas Perkins*, having supplies for the squadron, and freight for our mission &c.

Left Clatsop with my family on thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April for Willamette via. Vancouver. Took lodgings at Ft. George on thursday night. On friday night we reached Oak point, where we pitched our tent, and until monday morning we progressed no farther than the Cowalitze, because of a storm. On monday evening we reached Vancouver. Here I left my family, thinking it not advisable to take Mrs. F. any farther inas-

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<sup>9</sup>The *Thomas H. Perkins*, purchased for \$9000 by Lieutenant Wilkes after the loss of the *Peacock*, and renamed the *Oregon*.

<sup>10</sup>The United States exploring expedition, commanded by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes.

much as she had had two ague chills on the way up from Clatsop.

On Wednesday I set out for Willamette, and reached there on Friday morning; and was happy to meet so many of the Brethren, and to find so many of them in health. We had a very harmonious Annual meeting, which continued in session nearly two weeks.

During the session we made arrangements for the Indian manual labour school,<sup>11</sup> and appointed a committee with powers for the purpose of getting up a literary institution for the education of the Youth of Oregon &c.<sup>12</sup>

On my return to Vancouver I had the pleasure of being made acquainted with Revd Messrs, Smith<sup>13</sup> and Clark,<sup>14</sup> and ladies from the mission in the interior, very much discouraged in view of the prospect before them, so much so, that Mr. Smith determined to leave the country, his wife being in bad health. The Revd Mr. Griffin<sup>15</sup> continues at Vancouver for the present, with whom I formed a very pleasant acquaintance.

We left Vancouver the next day after my arrival, leaving Br. Kone and family there, as Mrs. K's health would not admit of a removal. We reached Clatsop on the morning of the third day after we left, and found all things in safety.

During my absence from home the *Vincense*,<sup>16</sup> Comodore Wilks, of the exploring squadron, arrived at Nesqually. After arranging matters there, he came across the country to Fort George; Mr. Waldron the purser of the *Vincense*, and general agent, and another gentleman accompanying him.

Comodore Wilks came over, in company with Mr. Birnie, to

<sup>11</sup>The Mission Manual Labor School was started in 1834. In 1841 there were about 40 children in the school, so it was decided to build larger quarters; in 1842, at a cost of \$10,000 a building was erected in the present town of Salem, which was sold in 1844 to the Oregon Institute; Hines, *Oregon and its Institutions*.

<sup>12</sup>This became the Oregon Institute, which was the beginning of Willamette University; Hines, *Oregon and its Institutions*, 303-04.

<sup>13</sup>Asa B. Smith, of the American Board mission.

<sup>14</sup>Harvey Clark, Congregational minister and independent missionary; for biography see Dobbs, *Men of Champeog*, 90-93.

<sup>15</sup>John S. Griffin, independent missionary; biography in Dobbs, 87-90.

<sup>16</sup>The *Vincennes*, of the Wilkes expedition.

make me a call, and to go down to Clatsop point to look out for the *Peacock*, another vessel of the squadron, which was ordered to this river, and is expected every day. I was much pleased with the short acquaintance had with Capt. Wilks, and hope to have more extensive opportunities with him, & also with the other officers of the squadron. We anticipate having much pleasure in their society for some months to come.

On the 25th May, I crossed over to Ft. George, and was introduced to Mr. Waldron, in whose society I was very much interested, and with whom I spent most of the day. Mr. Wilks & the other gentleman having left for Vancouver.

On the 29th I recd a note from Mr. Waldron, in which he expressed fears that all was not well with the *Peacock*, as she had not made her appearance yet.

I will also mention here, that during my absence from home the Bark *Wave*, Capt. More, from England, arrived.

May 30th Sabbath, Preached from these words, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven."

On June 1st comenced planting my garden.

[JUNE] 23RD. Br. J Lee and wife have just left us, having been with us two weeks. Br. Witcomb<sup>17</sup> and family came down with Br. Lee, and remain here for the benefit of Br. Witcomb's health, which is very poor, and we fear it will never be any better, but we hope for the best, and pray that God may raise him up, that he may yet be a helper for us in this field of the most arduous toil and soul trying perplexity.

By Br. Lee I received a letter from Br. Clement, a local preacher residing in Poughkeepsie N. Y. and also one from Br. Smith at Honolulu. We have just had a visit from Br. & sister Clark from the interior; self supporting missionaries of the Presbyterian Church. They are in great straits not knowing what to do, or where to attempt an establishment. May the Lord direct them.

You ask me, probably, Watchman what of the night? All

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<sup>17</sup>Josiah L. Whitcomb arrived in Oregon in 1837 as second officer of the *Diana*; was employed as superintendent of the mission farm; Bancroft, *Oregon*, I, 157, 162.

is dark. The wretchedness of the heathen is untold. The *Gospel only* can ameliorate their condition. And Oh! how difficult to communicate one truth to their dark minds. Yet we will try. We will use the means in our reach, and leave the event with God, in whose hand are the hearts of all men.

Br. Lee and myself spoke to a number of the indians last Sabbath they appeared to be somewhat interested, and so they do at all times when I speak to them on the subject of religion.

It is now the 7th of December. So you discover that it is a long time since I have written anything in my journal. And yet during the time since I last wrote I have passed through the most interesting and trying scenes with which I have been called to encounter since we entered the Territory.

You discover by my note on the 29th May that the *Peacock*, one of the ships of the exploring squadron, was anxiously looked for. On the first of July, or rather, in the former part of the month, she made her appearance off the mouth of the river, in company with the *Flying Fish* her tender. Mr. Kone and myself went down to Point Adams with our canoe, and there waited until we supposed she crossed the Bar, when we proceeded to Bakers Bay, expecting to meet her there; but before we reached the Bay we discovered the *Peacock* hauling up to the east, and shortly after they clued up her sails and remained stationary, which I considered strange management; But I concluded she had lost her wind, and had come to an anchor. We landed in Baker's Bay and what must have been our astonishment when we discovered that she had come in outside of the north breakers for a certain distance, and when, as I before observed, they hauled to the east and ran her directly on the North Breakers!! Without any farther comment, I will just say, she became a total wreck.<sup>18</sup> We returned home in the evening, and about noon the next day we were informed that her masts were all carried away. So we repaired to the Bay again, and on our arrival a part of the officers and crew had effected a landing in their boats, and the boats were off in order to save the remainder; in a short time the boats returned with the remaining officers and crew. So that none were lost. We had our

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<sup>18</sup>For wreck of the *Peacock* see Wilkes, *Narrative*, IV, 477-96.

tent with us and some eatables, and did what we could towards relieving our countrymen in their misfortunes; but it was but very little that we were able to do.

In a day or two they took up their quarters at Fort George, and during their stay in the river we had only occasional visits from a few of them. A few of the officers and of the scientific gentlemen were pious, and their society was very agreeable. A chaplain was sent out with them, but for some cause he was off duty. Such a number of men, exposed as they are to every kind of temptation to sin, are much in need of faithful religious instruction. And should not our government take effective measures to supply her navy with able and faithful chaplains?

I had the privilege of preaching to them twice, and endeavoured at each time to deal with their souls as one who must give an account.

(To be continued)