

Northwest Territory; and a more useful person I have seldom met with, or one that could be so well depended on. He had been for several years in this territory, having left the Company's service, married an Indian wife, and was now living on a farm of about fifty acres, at the Cowlitz, independent and contented. I have seldom seen so pretty a woman as his wife, or a more cheerful and good housewife; before her marriage she was the belle of the country, and celebrated for her feats of horsemanship.

Plumondon engaged several of the young Indians to accompany him, and with two canoes we were all accommodated. The price for each Indian was to be a check shirt.

During our short stay at Cowlitz, several Indian women brought in pieces of buckskin for sale, which they deem a necessary part of the equipment of a traveller. From them I learned the manner in which they prepare it, which is as follows. Immediately after the animal is killed, the skin, after having all the hair scraped off, is stretched tight on a frame; it is there left until it becomes as dry as parchment, when it is rubbed over with the brains of the animal, which impart oil to it; it is then steeped in warm water, after which it is dried in the smoke, two women stretching it all the time it is drying; it is then again wet and wound tightly round a tree, from which it is again taken, smoked, and drawn by women as before; when nearly dry, it is rubbed with the hands as in washing, until it is soft and pliable; and then it is ready for use.

Mr. Forrest stated to me that he had put a suit on, twenty-four hours after the animal had been running in the forest. I am well satisfied that no kind of apparel is so well suited as this to the life of an Indian or trapper, and all who travel in a wild country should be provided with such a dress.

About a mile from the farm-house, we descended a steep bank, two hundred feet high, to the river, where we found our canoes waiting for us. The Cowlitz was here about two hundred yards wide, and very rapid. Our company, or rather crew, consisted of nine young Indians. We were soon seated and gliding down the stream, while each boatman exerted his fullest strength to send us onwards. Just before sunset, when we thought we had made nine miles, we landed and pitched our tents on a small island in the river. The island was covered with drift-wood, which soon enabled us to make a good fire, which the temperature rendered quite acceptable. When our supper was prepared, we found that our Indians had come away destitute of any supply whatever, and that it was necessary to provide for them. This I have generally found to be the case, not only with these