

ple. Nothing is more natural, since the laws of commerce are natural laws, and do not depend upon race or individual peculiarities. The position of The Dalles, midway between the two geographical divisions of the region west of the Rockies, and at the lower end of the greatest natural obstruction to navigation of the only waterway connecting them, is that of a natural commercial point, recognized alike by the aborigine and his Caucasian successor.

The first commercial enterprise established here was that of a fur trading post, built by the great Hudson's Bay Company (then the Northwest Company), in 1820. In 1838, the Methodist missionaries, who had settled near the site of Salem four years before, founded a branch mission here, the outlines of the foundation of the original log structure being still traceable near the site of the Wasco academy. In 1846, Catholics, whose headquarters were at Vancouver, also founded a mission here, and this has always remained an important point for that denomination. The Methodist mission was sold to Dr. Whitman in 1847, and after the sad death of that energetic missionary and his wife a few months later, when they and twelve others were killed by the Cayuse Indians, it ceased to be used for that purpose. In the war which followed the massacre, The Dalles was used as a base of military operations by the volunteers from the Willamette.

In 1850, a military post was established here, garrisoned by three companies of troops, and a sutler's store was opened, by John C. Bell, near the barracks. In 1851, he sold to William Gibson. The same year, A. McKinlay & Co., represented by Perrin Whitman, built a frame structure in the present business portion of the city, and opened a store. In the spring of 1853, they sold to Sims & Humason, and the same

year Mr. Gibson removed from the garrison to a better location near the river. In 1854, several settlers took up donation claims, and other stores were established. The Dalles was rapidly becoming a good business point, the trade with soldiers, Indians and immigrants being good. Several residences were built that year, and quite a town sprang up.

The first steamboat, the *Flint*, made her appearance in 1851. Until then, all goods, furs, etc., had been conveyed up and down the river in large, flat-bottomed bateaux, introduced by the fur companies, and it was several years after the appearance of steamers, before this means of transportation was entirely discontinued. With the discovery of gold in the Colville region, in 1855, and the large travel to and from the mines which followed, business in the new town increased rapidly. During the long Indian war which followed, The Dalles was the base of operations for both the regulars and the volunteers, a force, at times, of nearly two thousand men. Here were gathered all the quartermaster and commissary stores, which were brought up the river by boat, and forwarded, when needed, to the troops in the field, by wagons and pack animals. During this period, both business and population increased rapidly. Again in 1858-9, when thousands of men passed through this region to the mines of Fraser river, business received a great stimulus. It was not, however, until the mineral discoveries in Idaho, in 1861, followed quickly by others in Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho and Montana, that The Dalles reaped the full measure of its advantages as a commercial point. Tens of thousands of people, and millions of pounds of freight, passed up and down the river in the next few years, every man and pound of which was unloaded from the steamer at The Dalles,