

A SKETCH
OF AN
OVERLAND ROUTE
TO
BRITISH COLUMBIA,

BY

1823-1908

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the panther. The Indian saw one, and in the evenings we heard them calling as they skirted round our camp, attracted by the scent.

"The bottom of the valley is occupied by so much morass, that we were obliged to keep along the slope, although the fallen timber rendered it very tedious work, and severe for our poor horses, that now had their legs covered by cuts and bruises.

"The timber along Beaver River is mostly young, but there are the remains of what had been a noble growth of forests, consisting of cedar, pine, and spruce, among the latter of which is the magnificent prusche, which sometimes reaches four yards in circumference. I also saw a few young maples (*Negundo fraso.*) Berries of many kinds were very abundant, and, indeed, had it not been for this we would have suffered much from hunger."

HOWSE'S PASS.

In 1859 Dr. Hector crossed the mountains by Howse's Pass, and went up the Columbia to a point within a few miles of the Boat Encampment, near to the Athabasca Pass. Howse's Pass is thus described by Dr. Hector.

"From the site of Bow Fort I followed up my track of the preceding summer, along the valley of Bow River, until I reached Castle Mount, opposite the Vermillion Pass. Instead of crossing the watershed at this place, the hope of procuring game and adding to my stock of provisions, to which up to this time we had avoided having recourse, induced me to get to the north-west as far as possible, keeping on the eastern slope of the mountains. I accordingly passed from the South to the North Saskatchewan by the Pipe Stone Pass, which is further to the east than the Little Fork Pass, by which I crossed this tranverse divide in the preceding summer. This pass follows up a small tributary to Bow River from the north, and after having traversed a height of land at an altitude of about 7,000 feet, descends what I name the Siffleur River to the north branch of the Saskatchewan at the Kootanie plain. Here I left my Indians, as they had by their hunting added 70 lbs. to my store of pemmican, and they were now likely, from the nature of the country I was about to traverse, to consume more than they would kill.

"Altering my course to the S.W., I followed up the Saskatchewan to its source, and searched for a pass to the Columbia, of the existence of which I had been informed by the Indians.

"Choosing the middle fork, I found it to rise in three branches, two of which are derived from immense glaciers, while the third is merely a