A Graphic Description of the Terrible Works of Water and Ice on the Upper Missouri River.

Devastation on Every Side-Huge Ice Fields Still Un-melted Thousands of Cattle Lost.

Yankton Letter to the New York Tribune, The great flood in this valley of the Upper Missouri two months ago has been pushed from the public mind by succeeding sensations. But the traces of this late glacial epoch are now most interesting as the account of the flood itself. Nor would this people decline a special bow of promise against future drowning. Let me attempt to describe what the newspaper man of Noah's day forgot.

I cannot describe the complete upper valley for 900 miles-from Bismarck to Sioux City-which was laid waste by the water, at an average loss, it is now estimated, of at least \$200,-600 per mile. The best of these valley lands are uninhabitable and untillable at the present season, by reason the worst scene of the disaster, which formerly was the garden section of Sioux City, sixty miles below, there lay an unbroken stretch of rich allu-Viewed at long range its polished smoothness persuaded one that Mother Nature had once been a better laundrywoman than some who iron shirts. Here a few pioneers began making brown jug to the leg of a rosewood their homes a full generation ago. It had become thickly settled, there being in all over 1,200 families, and every half-section being a distinct farm. Through this low plain runs, in a zigzag manner llke a fence-rail, the Missouri river in its sober seasons. Nowhere does its natural width exceed fifty rods, and in spots at midtract of 600 square miles at harvest time was a most ravishing scene, full of temptations for those who love

possibilities of this year in the valley labor by the month. In these tents, during a large part of the last sixty days, old men and grandmothers, delicate women and little children, accustomed to warm houses and good beds and plenty of food, have huddled together on straw, scantily clothed, meanly fed and covered chiefly with shivers at night. Driven out of their houses through chamber windows and are worse in their extent, though not skylights as the water came up the in their intensity; for I have describstairs, they escaped principally in skirts, many with nothing saved but whereas the devastation extended a their night garments. For in many places below the ice gorge, which was from fifteen to thirty feet in height and ten miles in length, where a gorge dam broke, the water rolled down upon the settlers like the waters of the Red Sea upon Egyptians.

These people are painfully in need of clothing and bedding as gifts from people of this and other towns along the river have contributed generously, but not many in a new country are supplied with a surplus of these goods. point and for hundreds of miles above Governor Ordway and other leading citizens have united in an extended movement asking for aid, and have sent to the country at large the Rev. Wm McCready, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church here. This week he is in Iowa. Soon he will go tributaries there were already above pastors or other philanthropists to wait for him or any other special ing families, stock, etc., to high ground. They believed only their eyes; and pany has now invested largely in this charity. I am authorized to state At the first bound the bottoms were that any goods for the relief of suffers by the flood, if delivered to its agents and addressed to "the Ray. William McCready, care of Governor Ordway think that they will be judiciously distributed. Many of the sufferers are members of churches, and it is syrups and oil floated toward the gult "in sweet accord." Men argued from precedent and lost. further arranged that any packages, the donors of which prefer that they reach sufferers of any specific denomination nation, shall so be given out.

PILES OF ICE BESEMBLING BUILDINGS.

Now come back to the bluffs and the field-glass. Gaze again, and you may

SWEPT AWAY BY FLOODS. wet. But the ice-floes and the might ty sweep of deep water carried and of spread over these valley lands square Plante

lagoons of water, drifted trees, half-buried, decaying carcasses, and the want of all stock, dwellings, farming tools, and the lack of all ability to lack of all ability to But I can describe

was dotted with many sturdy growth of the century, many trunks being thirty inches through. Now, almost to the last monarch, they have been moved down by the mighty have been moved down by the mighty will do the distance between trunks being thirty inches through. Now, almost to the last monarch, they have been moved down by the mighty have been moved down by the mighty will do the distance between trunks of the century, many trunks being thirty inches through. Now, almost to the last monarch, they have been moved down by the mighty have been moved dow ice-blade. You train your glass in vain for a half dozen shadows down this desert. But you easily detect a this region. Between this city and house roof or a church spire protruding from the sand like monuments. For, with thousands of acres of timvial bottoms, averaging ten miles in width, and fenced in by high bluffs.

ber, whole villages were floated from their foundations, ground into fragments, by the strange millstones of the hour, and scattered over the plain. Strewn everywhere are mementoes of home and culture, from the cradle and

or buried track of a once prosperous railway. But its cars are crushed and its offices closed for sixty miles, and not a whistle of a locomotive has been heard in Yankton since March 28. summer as many feet would span the lazy stream. Before the flood this fered for ten days without intercourse with those on dry land. The occufarm life—good buildings, large crops, fine stock,

LIVING IN TENTS ALONG THE BLUFF.

Seen after the flood, it seems to be ravished by nature of all nature's gifts and man's achievements. Standing on the bluffs here, with a glass, one looks fifteen miles away without seen.

With those on dry land. The occupants have even now scarcely recovered from their prostrated fear that their last resort, shaken by the blow of every ice cake, would go down at the next thump. In one town many citizens took refuge in a strong barn, and lifted upon one of the hay-lofts several fatted steers. And there Seen after the flood, it seems to be ravished by nature of all nature's gifts and man's achievements. Standing on the bluffs here, with a glass, one looks fifteen miles away without seems ing one home. There is not one perfect building left, and only here and there is there a relic of human habitation. Now and then, nearest the bluffs, is seen a plowed field. The bluffs, is seen a plowed field. The a group of crippled, feverish, rheumarest is desolation. More than half tic people in the background. Very the 1,200 families whose claims were few lives have been lost, but still-births confronted with the request to pur-"jumped" and living in tents along have been numerous, and many have the bluffs most of them having nothing been made sick by exposure such as to do, and nothing to do anything would be attendant upon a skiff ride with. The savings of years and the of five miles through the flood on a "zero night," with no covering but are lost. The young men and some night-clothes or a calico dress. And others have gone away seeking farm a few have been made crazy by their losses and hardships. If I have sketched in this picture of desolation anything which, at a distance, seems improbable, the recollection of the fact that within the narrow walls of the valley, the flood rose forty-one feet above the river's low water mark will. I think rather excite opposite wonder that results are not worse. And they

THE REMNANT OF A RAILROAD.

WHY THE PEOPLE WERE NOT PREPARED. The unusual source and time of this flood explain the severity of losses from it. The annual high water in the Missouri is locally known as "the June rise," the river seldom running Sunday of this month the road from "full-banked" earlier than the 1st of Wallale to Walla Walla will be changed of clothing and bedding as gifts from their more fortunate fellow-men. The summers at Omaha, I never saw business on "the flats" disturbed by water before June. But this season, it was excellent stage line, the fare on which still March, and the Missouri at this is \$10. So far as the time is conwas locked in the thickest ice, without one symptom of a thaw, when telegraphic words came from Montana land here in about four days. The that the weather there was like May, graders of the Northern Pacific are that the weather that the five years' snow was melting about thirty miles northeast of Spofast, and that the Missouri and its kane, and the track-layers near to Chicago, Cincinnati, and the Atlan- their banks. But people this way untic cities. But it is not necessary for iformly laughed at the report, and refused to prepare for a flood by remov-They believed only their eyes; and on witnesses told the story too late. vered with one or two feet of iceid water through which stock refused to be driven to the bluffs. Thus it was, too, that men lost stocks of Yankton, D. T.," will be transported goods in the villages, some of them to this city free of charge. And I worth \$10,000 or \$15,000. Silks, 'in sweet accord." Men argued from

ed the scenes in only sixty miles,

thousand.

ELECTRICITY A MOTIVE POWER. A Tramway and an Omnibus Line

Started in Berlin. catch sight of some solitary horseman Slemms has constructed in Berlin bepressing through the mire-pits to learn tween the suburb of Lintonfeld and youd this an army of Chinamen are the latest state of things around what the Cadettenhaus is now regularly used to be his home, or he may be opened for passengers, and is giving used to be his home, or he may be opened for passengers, and is giving for the passage of the locomotive. In turning his horse in that direction as great satisfaction. The rails are of these wide areas of the Columbia one might ride through curiosity into the regular railway pattern, but the basin there is room for tens of thought and the regular railway pattern, but the basin there is room for tens of thought and the regular railway pattern. the plain of the Dead Sea. There still guage is only three feet three inches. remains bits of icebergs that in those A single car is propelled by the curfew days were built up like little pyr-rent at an average speed of nine miles detention—cost and time—these tens amids forty feet high, their bases be-an hour, though this rate can be douing measured by acres. For huge bled if necessary. A similar line has cakes of blue ice, four feet thick and been creeted at the Crystal palace, rods square, piled up like a block of Sydenham, as an attraction for visit- forced themselves upon public notice, buildings, and cemented by freshwetting and freezing, fight the sun far toward his summersolstice at 43° north latitude. The fields of ice that were only ten feet thick, and that were spread over entire townships in one patch, are gone, though they remained well into May, and formed a reserve that keeps half the bottoms still

miles of sand and slime, which will a pair of Duprez electric motors. The two lines. Later on there will be a not disappear until the next flood lifts tricycle, with its occupant and appathen. These deposits vary in depth ratus, weighed four hundredweight, ing across this upper country, and anfrom one to six feet, and from all I can learn they are very general between this point and Sioux City. Many apparatus, M. Trouve hopes to attain definite shape, for when fully aroused farms are ruined by these deposits of barren sand. The black deposits are rich, but needless, as the soil was al-

ready deep and strong.

With the aid of your glass you can quickly count bloated, half-submerged and by prove useful to the invalided careasses of attle and by prove useful to the invalided carcasses of cattle and horses by the or the weakly. In Paris, too, elechundred. Literally all farm stock tricity has been applied to work an airwas drowned and lodged in the drift, compressor at the toy balloon factory where it now festers and threatens to of MM. Chauchard et Cie., behind spread diseases that would be worse the Hotel de Louvre. The spare than the flood. While covered with steam power of the engines has been water the carcasses can not be buried, utilized by two two Gramme machines, and as fast as their sides appear, the one of which generates the current hot sun putrifies them. Under a and the other transforms it into mestrong southerly wind the atmosphere chanical work. The energy thus tion a number of bad characters have of this city even now is nauseous, and transmitted is about a horse-power located, but the great bulk of the

tween here and Sioux City. Around to ply between Dehlendorf and Telembryo city occupies a charming the little hamlet of Meckling alone lie tow at Berlin. The authorities have location, from which fine views of 3000 dead cattle - at least 3,000,000 granted permission for the erection of pounds of putrified flesh. "Horrible" the necessary apparatus, which conpounds of putrified flesh. "Horrible" is the only term that at all reflects this sanitary situation. In many parts of the late farming district the ground is bristling with the trunks of trees and branches and other debris held fast in the sand at one end, or at full length. To remove these will be like reducing the forest to the farm. Nor will the farmer know that his farm is clear till his broken plow writes him a revised book of revelations. The valley was dotted with many sturdy groves of of the beds of sand, the bank of ice, was dotted with many sturdy groves of to revolve. It is calculated that this guide maps the town of Ainsworth is

A LAND OF PROMISE.

From Portland to Spokane Falls
The Dalles Ainsworth Railroad Progress and Its

> spondence of The San Francisco Chronicle. SPOKANE FALLS, W. T.

Many emigrants have commenced the journey to this country under some misapprehension as to its actual cost. To those who possess considerable money the difference in the cost Down the valley winds the wrecked of the journey as it is stated in the railway and steamship company's advertisements and as it developes on the road amounts to nothing more than a vexation or surprise; but to the man of scanty means burdened when forced from their homes, held San Francisco to Walla Walla for \$34. 125 people, where they fasted and suf- Knowing that on the route there is river-steamer travel, the emigrant is avail him nothing. He pays, and is size 10 cents. chase steamer meal tickets at the A Physician of Great Prominence office, where they can be had for 40 in Thirty-six street, New York city, cents; they cost 50 cents at the table. was unable to even help Mr. Wm. In this way the man pays out about McKee, of Patterson, N. J., suffering 87 between San Francisco and Almota the agonies always attendant upon for each passenger. To a man with a diseased kidneys. As an honest man family of six or eight, sometimes con- and practitioner he prescribed and ditioned as to require two staterooms cured him by using one bottle of Warat a time, the sum total is considerable. Beyond Portland but 100 pounds of baggage is allowed on each ticket, the extra being shipped at four cents per pound. After leaving Almota, but fifty pounds and four cents for extra. It will be safe for the emigrant to add \$10 to \$15 to the advertised cost of this journey.

HOW TO TRAVEL. After the 15th of June the best way for those coming to this region will be to buy tickets to Ainsworth, thence by rail to Spokane. The route via Almota necessitates a stage ride via Colfax to this point of eightythree miles, fare \$9.50, exclusive of meaks, or the expense of a stop-over at the last-named place. On the last Wallula to Walla Walla will be changed very disagreeable transfer. From Walla Walla to this point there is an cerned there is not more than fifteen hours difference in the routes mentioned; the traveler getting from Port-Sprague, forty-five miles to the southwest, and are advancing at the rate of 2 miles per day. Whether the iron horse is stabled in Spokane in June depends upon the completion of several bridges in this immediate vicinity. Once the locomotive is here it estab lishes rail communication with the Dalles, distant 300 miles, and of course greatly lessens the expense of getting to this place. It was the 1st of May when I left Portland. It was about sunrise when the steamer swung into the stream. Mount Hood and the Callapoia range, over-looking the far-famed Willamette valley, soon came in view. The steamer touched at Vancouver, and soon after leaving that point the rugged features of the

Columbia come into view. THE CASCADES. At the Cascades, where a rail transfer of six miles is made, there is a The London Enquirer says: "The colony of government employes enelectric tramway which Dr. Werner gaged in making a canal around the impassable part of the river, and becutting away the high basaltic bluffs sands of people, and as this railway building removes the real causes of homes and build up a great country. The resources of this vast region have

streets of Paris by means electricity stored in a te secondary battery and te secondary battery and te secondary battery and the secondary battery batte

At the Dalles, where the traveler takes to the railway to complete his ourney to Wallula or Walla Walla, the growth of a settlement, as it is affected by the passage of a road, is very noticeable. A couple of years ago the Dalles was a hamlet of small hopes. To-day it assumes the dignity of a municipality, a thriving, bustling thrifty town of 5,000 or 6,000 inhabi tants, with a fine farming country for its support. About the railway staclearly in sight. I have sometimes all down the valley it is plague thought that if Noah had left us a little pen picture of the scene soon little pen picture of the scene soon and horses have become carrion bears the composed of the valuable per minute."

An omnibus run by electricity, says classes, who come to add moral and financial strength to the place. The London Electrician, is announced in an and horses have become carrion bears and horses have been bears and horses have become carrion bears and horses have become carrion bears and horses have been been been bears and horses have been been been bears and horses have been been been bears and horses have

> tree within two fifteen miles of the tewn. Every man built his shanty or house to suit his fancy, and without any reference to plan as to streets. Take out two or three buildings used by the railway company, the one hotel and a residence or two, and the rest of the houses are occupied by sharpers of both sexes, who live by fleecing the laboring men of their earnings. In a month or so the railway people will pull up stakes, and Ainsworth will reduced to an agent's shanty, with the chances that he will not sell tickets enough in a year to pay for a cancellation stamp. Twenty-five miles from this place the traveler loses sight of the sand desert, and in its stead finds high rolling land and bluff river banks, covered with a rank growth of grass-a magnificent stock range. Here and there a ranchman has located on the lowlands in the bends of the river, and made the isolated spots blooming and thritty, but as a general thing the farms lie back from the stream and only now and then come into view.

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