

A GREAT RIVER.

The Mightiest Stream of the Pacific Slope—Characteristics of the Columbia.

San Francisco Chronicle. The Columbia is without much doubt, the great river of the Pacific slope, and in regard to the volume of water which it pours into the ocean without injustice be ranked with the mighty Mississippi itself.

A DOUBTFUL UNDERTAKING.

I have been led into this chain of remarks by a very natural process of thought. Standing here at the cascades of the Columbia, face to face with the government works now in progress, I cannot but be convinced that if no project of importance involving the expenditure of many millions could be inaugurated by congress without a preliminary visit from a congressional committee, the present attempt in this case would have been made.

THE DALLAS.

The distance from Portland to Celilo is about 100 miles by the river, but in that distance the Columbia has two great impediments, one known as the Cascades, the other as the Dalles. The readers of The Chronicle will be kind enough not to confound the latter word with the bustling, brisk, lively and pleasure-loving town called by that name.

overcome these terrible obstacles there is but one way, and that is to cut, blast, rend, trash through the lava by means of powder for a distance of six miles, at least, or nine miles according to other calculations, and give to the canal thus made some five or six locks, for there is a fall from Celilo to the end of the dalles region of something like a hundred feet.

THE CASCADES.

But the other impediment, the Cascades, is not so terrible to look at, though there is a strong probability that even here a successful canal in the Washington territory side could not be made for less than several millions. The Cascades, as the name implies, are a series of rapids, which at low water are very formidable, but at high water can be surmounted by powerful steamers—save the last one.

THE PROCESS OF DISINTEGRATION.

Formerly basalt mountains as nearly as possible rectangular masses. Upon these the atmosphere acts. The lightning tears away corners and leaves great marks upon the perpendicular cliffs—meteoric round away huge masses; earthquakes upheave great terraces, and leave gorges through which the rains that fall upon the plateau descend as musical brooks. But the great disintegrating agent is snow.

A SINGULAR FACT.

Now the men who built the wagon road must be aware that this is true, because they noticed as a very singular fact that about a foot under the shale there was a stratum of chunks of ice. But it never occurred to them that melting ice must slide downward, because their brains were filled with the rapid current theory, although the Columbia has no more effect upon the mountain than I should have if I were to snow.

ternative is between some railroad traveling at each end, and some pretty rough staging in the middle, and three transfers, there can be no surprise that people with baggage prefer to go by sea.

THE BAR OF THE COLUMBIA.

But the sufferings of invalids and ladies in rough weather are really terrible, and there is not the most remote possibility of any natural improvement. The traffic between the two cities is rapidly increasing, because there is great growth and much enterprise on a grand scale in Oregon; and yet Oregon is and always will be dependent upon San Francisco for many comforts and luxuries, even when the Willard projects are completed and Portland has double connection with the eastern states.

RATHER SEVERE PARALLEL.

Col. Robert Ingersoll's view of Guitau's sanitarian motive is striking and suggests a parallel: "Do you think Guitau is insane?" "No more than I am. Do you know that he has not yet given his true reason for shooting Garfield?" He shot him for a reason, the Colonel, because he had been put out of the White House. The d-d little egotist believed that he was mainly responsible for the election of Garfield, and wanted official recognition and reward for his labor.

Sister Van Cott Was Guitau's Flame.

A recent Washington dispatch to the effect that Guitau based his hopes of effecting a rich widow upon the procurement of a government appointment has caused much talk in this city the past few days. While conducting revival meetings here last June Mrs. Van Cott exhibited several letters written her by Charles J. Guitau, prefacing the act with the statement, in substance, that Guitau was formerly an infidel, who had been converted through her efforts and that since his conversion he was in the most and most influential young man in Chicago.

DRUGGIST'S TESTIMONY.

H. F. McCarthy, druggist, Ottawa, Ont., states that he was afflicted with chronic bronchitis for some years, and was completely cured by the use of THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL.

HONORED AND BLESSED.

When a board of eminent physicians and chemists announced the discovery that by combining some well known valuable remedies, the most wonderful medicine was produced, which would cure such a wide range of diseases that most all other remedies could be dispensed with, many were skeptical; but proof of its merits by actual trial has dispelled all doubts, and to-day the discoverers of that great medicine, Hop Bitters, are honored and blessed by all as benefactors.—(Democrat.)

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