

SOURCES OF THE MISSOURI

Mistaken Impressions of the Early and Later Explorers. FROM BENTON TO THE NATIONAL PARK

The Country Drained by the River Beyond the Head of Navigation—Its Real Source in Wonderland—The Falls and the Canyon.

Since the time when Lewis and Clarke ascended the Missouri river in a rowboat, occupying the better part of the years 1801-2-3, equipped by the United States government for the purpose of exploring the country along and at the source of the Missouri river, the streams have become familiar as far as the art of navigation, Fort Benton, Mont. Beyond that point it is yet comparatively unknown.

A correspondent of the New York Evening Post, writing from Helena, says the "great muddy" loses its peculiar characteristic features above Fort Benton, and the water becomes as clear, cold and sparkling as a mountain trout stream.

Without reflecting on the work accomplished by Lewis and Clarke, under the difficulties which beset them at the time, it is a fact that they were the first to give to the United States a mineralogical or scientific sense.

THE THREE FORKS. The lower of the falls of the Missouri, known as the "Great Falls," is a perpendicular fall of about ninety feet.

FALLS AND CANYON. Some six miles above are the "Rainbow Falls," fifty feet in perpendicular descent.

Another four miles up stream and the roar of the "Black Eagle Falls" is heard. Here the entire river is a rushing torrent, twenty-six feet in midstream is a little rocky island upon which an antiquated Quaker mountain eagle, long since a subject of patriotic history, is perched on a branch of a ripe old log in an eternal Fourth of July.

The river, where these falls are located, flows through a grand natural cañon, not long, so deep or so picturesque as that of the Grand Cañon of the Colorado, but the volume of water is far greater, and the surrounding plains are fertile of higher grade of cultivation, far about with huge snow-crowned mountain ranges, down whose sides flow little arteries which form the life blood of the ranches, fed by melting snows often above timber line.

The river here flows directly north until, in the vicinity of Ashcroft, it reaches its northernmost limit a few miles from the British possessions, where it turns east and southeast. South of the Great Falls, some fifty or seventy miles, the stream bursts through its Rocky mountain barrier, at once freeing itself from the mountains, gliding out into the sunlight on the plains, a condition which steadily prevails until it finally joins the Mississippi.

GATE OF THE MOUNTAINS. From the falls south are the proper headwaters of the Missouri. The point where the river bursts through the mountains is the gate of the plains, sometimes called the spot which, for beauty and grandeur of scenery, is unsurpassed in the United States.

The entire volume of the river is here for a distance of about twenty miles, the average width of less than 300 feet, the mountain walls on either side rising perpendicularly for much of the distance more than 1,000 feet, the water, in fact, being leaning far out over the channel. The stream, generally so swift, is here as placid as the surface of a placid inland lake, making a perfect mirror for the heights and for the graceful pines which spring from every cranny. The water is clear and cold, swimming with deep throughout the cañon. The grayish granite walls are tumbled and pinnacled in a striking manner, rising so high above the daily strip of beaver's blue-visibility. Occasionally a gigantic needle reaches itself through the pined forest of the cañon, the voice of a distant waterfall, and the discharge of a rifle almost deafeningly surge against the rocks and mingle with those of the river. An occasional aloupe, where a few graceful bunches of willow have scant footing on the stream, help to break the picture to rarest beauty. For three miles there is scarcely a foothold at the water's edge for man or beast. The few

natural fissures which do break these almost solid walls are piled with huge broken pillars, angular rocks and granite slabs of granite curled and twisted by the elements through countless ages, forming natural bridges you break to break. Ducks and geese are plentiful along the banks, and trout and other fishes which give vegetation a foothold abound in lucious wild strawberries, raspberries, service-berry and other berries.

No description of this portion of the upper Missouri is complete without reference to that now famous northern landmark, the "Deerfoot." This huge flat-topped rock, which pushes itself heavenward to a height of 2,500 feet above the river, looks like the top of a bear, and is plainly visible from Helena, at a distance of twenty-five miles. Deep serrations in the gigantic mass of rock compelling it rise from base to summit, foretelling some tremendous slides, the most of which occurred in the short time since a section of the "tooth" weighing thousands of tons became detached, and tumbled down the river, scattering its fragments for miles. The dense forest which surrounds its base, cutting a broad roadway. This is liable to be repeated as soon as the frosts of winter have sufficiently softened the rock, and the masses of rock which already seem to be but feebly attached to this landmark.

Ascending the river from the "Gate of the Mountains," we leave the city of Helena, the capital and commercial metropolis of Montana, and travel on the river, which pushes itself heavenward to a height of 2,500 feet above the river, looks like the top of a bear, and is plainly visible from Helena, at a distance of twenty-five miles. Deep serrations in the gigantic mass of rock compelling it rise from base to summit, foretelling some tremendous slides, the most of which occurred in the short time since a section of the "tooth" weighing thousands of tons became detached, and tumbled down the river, scattering its fragments for miles.

THE ACTUAL SOURCE. Ascending the river from the "Gate of the Mountains," we leave the city of Helena, the capital and commercial metropolis of Montana, and travel on the river, which pushes itself heavenward to a height of 2,500 feet above the river, looks like the top of a bear, and is plainly visible from Helena, at a distance of twenty-five miles.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC. Dvorak has been engaged to assist as conductor in the Elstriedad at Cardiff, Wales, in 1895.

Last year was extremely disastrous to the opera houses of Italy, largely owing, it is stated, to the fact that the season was shorter. No fewer than thirty-six theaters had to be closed for lack of support.

Provincial Russia has 127 theaters, employing 6,500 persons. The average receipt of a provincial theater is \$100,000, and the actors there were devoted to opera, twenty-four to operetta and ninety-seven to the drama.

The Bostonians will begin rehearsals for their season early in September, and will open on the 1st of October. The season will be managed by the Bostonians, who will give a first-class performance in Carlsbad by Lobitzky's orchestra the latter part of July, with a repertoire with unusual enthusiasm by an international audience. The slow movement was recommended.

Padewski begins his American season in New York December 27, and will play his Polka Fantasia for piano and orchestra for the first time in the United States. He will leave for San Francisco and other western cities and not appear in New York again till the end of March.

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SOME ANCESTRAL REFLECTIONS. My ancestors were goodly men. And stout of limb and muscle, They bore the palm of victory. They made a warfare of the world, And they were goodly men.

A SOCIAL DEAL ON 'CHANGE. BY ROBERT BARR. It was in the days when the gambling rooms were dark and filled with bric-a-brac, the darkness enabled the half-blinded visitor, coming in out of the bright light, to knock over gracefully a \$200 vase that had come from Japan to meet disaster in New York.

In a corner of the room was seated, in a deep and luxurious armchair, a most beautiful woman. She was the wife of the son of the colonel in America, and as young; her husband was devotedly fond of her; she was mistress of a palace; anything that money could buy was hers, and she expressed the wish; but she was weeping softly and had just made up her mind that she was the most miserable creature in all the land.

Every one had read the story of that marriage; goodness knows the papers made the most of it, as is their custom. Young Ed, who was much more than a mere son of his father, expected stern opposition, and in knowing the unlimited power unlimited wealth gave to the man, he did not risk an interview with his parents. He had the girl. The first inkling old man Druce had of the affair was from a vivid, sensational account of the runaway in an evening paper. He was pictured as a man of an implacable father, who was at that moment searching for the elopers with a shotgun.

Old Druce had been too often the central figure of a journalistic sensation to mind what the sheet said. He promptly telegraphed all over the country, and getting into communication with the East, he was called to the aid of his father, who was much more than a mere son of his father, expected stern opposition, and in knowing the unlimited power unlimited wealth gave to the man, he did not risk an interview with his parents.

At first Ella had been rather afraid of her silent father-in-law, whose very name made her tremble and shiver. But when she discovered that the old man actually stood in awe of her, and that his apparent brusqueness was the mere awkwardness of a man who was not used to being pleased or worried himself wondering whether there was anything she wanted.

Old Druce came among them the third day, and he had a great deal to say to the young couple. The situation was complicated by the evident fact that the general was trying to avoid him. At last, however, he and after a word or two they walked up and down together. Druce appeared to be saying little, and the general said some things, which the young man talked rapidly and seemingly making some appeal that was not responded to. Stocks instantly went up.

"You see, Druce, it's like this," the general was saying. "The women have their world and we have ours. They are, in a certain way, the world of the world."

"Are they going to call?" asked Druce, curiously.

"Just let them call what they will," the general said. "I don't care what they say. I don't care what they say. I don't care what they say."

"I pity the devil when that day comes," young Sned said once when some one had made the usual remark about his wife. "I pity the devil when that day comes, when she will be a woman, and I will be a man."

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cham, which was a libel, he had when perceived. He was face to face with a problem and a happy thought struck him. "Those Sneed women!" he said in tones of great content, "what'll they amount to, if they don't get married? They're old maids. They never were half so pretty as you. Why should you care whether they call on you or not?"

"But society can't have anything against it," he said, "and I'll speak to General Sned tomorrow. I'll arrange the whole business in five minutes."

"Do you think that'll do you any good?" asked young Sned.

"I'll tell you what I'll do," cried the old man. "I'll go to the office and see General Sned tomorrow. I'll arrange the whole business in five minutes."

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