



WORLD'S PICTORIAL LINE

rising 500 to 1,000 feet above, is a slate formation whose coloring alone is unique and beautiful at any season. It deepens from a dull gray to a deep purple, and the masses which have been ground to powder beneath our feet sometimes look like beds of rich brown and purple ochre.

CASCO AND FALLS OF THE MISSOURI.—Debouching from Prickly Pear Cañon to that of the Missouri River this line enters a domain worthy a much more extended description than can here be given. Here, 400 miles from the sea, the Missouri River presents such distinctive features of wildness, grandeur and beauty, as are hardly dreamed of by those who witness its murky and treacherous meanderings through the prairie States. Especially the 100-mile stretch of the upper river, taking in the most notable cañons, the Great Falls, and the vast meadowy meads bordering the stream after its exit from the Hudson Highlands. The whole volume of the river is here for five miles confined to an average width of less than 300 feet, the mountain walls on either side rising perpendicularly for much of the distance over 1,000 feet, and in one or two instances leaning far out over the channel. The Upper Missouri, generally so extremely swift, is here as placid as the surface of our most sheltered lakes, constituting an eternal mirror for the overlooming heights, and for the beautiful pines which spring from every crevice. The water is from ten to twenty feet deep throughout the cañon.

The grayish granite walls are towered and pinnacled in a wonderfully striking manner, and, rising so high above their water-washed foundations, with only a dainty arc of heaven's blue visible, fill one with emotions of awe and involuntary dread, akin to those which possess the first voyagers of the dark river in its remotest cañons. Entrances to giant caves, never to be reached except by means of ropes flung over giddy heights, are seen at numerous points. Occasionally blue sky is seen through eyeholes carved in the highest towers. These heights are only homes for eagles and mountain sheep. For three miles there is scarcely a single foothill at the water's edge for man or beast. The few natural dams which do break these bunches of willows have scant foothold and shade the stream, tones down the picture to one of rarest beauty. For three miles there is scarcely a single foothill at the water's edge for man or beast. The few natural dams which do break these bunches of willows have scant foothold and shade the stream, tones down the picture to one of rarest beauty. For three miles there is scarcely a single foothill at the water's edge for man or beast. The few natural dams which do break these bunches of willows have scant foothold and shade the stream, tones down the picture to one of rarest beauty.

One hundred miles from Helena are the first of the Missouri River falls. The "Great Falls"—here so clear as crystal—is now making its way through and over the last mountain barriers which separate it from the outer plains. The usual approach to the different falls is over a grand plateau, whose general elevation is more than 500 feet above the river, and whose surface is one broad, grassy meadow, dotted with numerous lakes. The principal falls, four in number, are scattered along for a distance of twelve miles, and the river may be said to be in a cañon for the entire distance, as all final approaches are made down steep, vertical banks of from 200 to 500 feet in height. The first is known as the Black Eagle Falls. It is a vertical plunge of the entire river of twenty-six feet. Here in mid-river is the island upon which an antiquated Rocky Mountain eagle, now a subject of history, is passing away the golden days of a ripe old age in one eternal Fourth of July. Four miles below the first are the Rainbow Falls, fifty feet in perpendicular descent. The entire river, 1,900 feet wide, here hurls itself over an unbroken rocky rim, as regular in its outline as a work of art, into a vast rocky-bound amphitheatre, where the terrific commotion of the waters is something awful to witness.

Six miles further down are the "Great Falls" whose descent is ninety feet, and whose tremendous roar is often heard a dozen miles away. The river, here possessing a volume

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three times greater than that of the Ohio at Pittsburgh, is narrowed to 200 yards, and passes between perpendicular cliffs some 300 feet high. Nearly half the stream next to the right bank descends vertically, with such terrific force as to send continuous and always beautiful clouds of spray 200 feet in air. These gorgeous columns are often dissipated into a thousand fantastic shapes by coming into contact with glittering masses of snow-white foam, the whole, under the radiance of the sun, being enhanced to beauty indescribable by the richest colors of the rainbow. The balance of the river is precipitated over successive ledges of from ten to twenty feet, forming a magnificent prospect of fleecy foam 200 yards in breadth and ninety feet in perpendicular elevation. A vast basin of surging, foaming waters succeed below, their deep green color and fearful commotion betraying a prodigious volume and depth. Occasional clumps of pine and cedar among broad, rocky dikes near the river add much to the general picturesqueness below the falls. Beaver, mink, and other fur-bearing animals are plentiful among the spray-dashed rocks, and we found splendid antelope hunting within rifle-shot of the river.

Similar, if not equal, in its attractions to the scenery of the Yellowstone, are the twelve miles of Bad Lands on the Upper Missouri, a day's pleasant ride below the falls. Huddled together in this small space are the most remarkable varieties of eroded rocks in the world. There is scarcely a form in architecture and statuary that will not find a semblance here. The rock is of a caliche appearance, friable, and has been wrought by the elements into thousands of forms—some resembling infants, others giants, and others still churches and castles, as large and as grandly pinnacled as the Milan Cathedral. There is not, says Chief Justice Dwyer, in this world another bit of scenery affording so much that is novel and striking in appearance. No description worthy of it has ever been written.

PLAYHEAD LAKE.—We have already alluded to the marvellous beauty of Bitter Root Valley, and must add that the western Montana is crowded with superb views, and that the mountain ranges are there more rugged than in the sections thus far described. Flathead Lake is perhaps the most interesting feature here. It is some twenty-eight miles in length, has an average width of ten miles, and is embosomed in one of the loveliest and most fertile countries that the imagination can well picture. Stretched across its center, like a cluster of emeralds, is a chain of beautiful wooded islands, and upon its clear, broad surface wild water-fowl of every description, even to the sea-gulls, disport themselves. Shaded on two sides by towering cliffs, its other extremities lie along peaceful meadows, and have sloping shores of rare beauty. Around the foot of the lake, and amid the most delightful scenes, is grouped a Flathead Indian settlement, where snug houses, well-fenced fields, lowing herds and waving grain give evidence of the rapid advance of those natives in the ways of civilization and thrift. Here it is that the Pend d'Oreille River takes its rise, rushing

from brink to brink. Ducks and geese are plentiful along the shaded retreat, and the translucent water is full of trout, grayling, garfish and suckers. The few covers which give vegetation a foothold abound in luscious wild raspberries, service berries and currants.

Ten miles farther down is Atlantic Cañon, also of great attraction. At the lower end of this, and overlooking the river, is that strangely formed and noted northern landmark, the "Bear's Tooth." Its rocky tusk are plainly visible at Helena, twenty-five miles away, and from that or any other point of view its name seems quite apposite. It rises 2,500 feet above the river. Deep serrations in the gigantic mass of rock composing it rise from base to summit, forestalling some tremendous slides in the near future. One section of the "Tooth" weighing thousands of tons recently became detached, thundered down the mountain, through the heavy forest which surrounds the base of the tooth proper, and cut a broad roadway, smooth and clean, which looked as if the side of a Titan had just completed a very heavy contract. Trees, bowlders, and underbrush were instantly hurled in shapeless masses to the river, 2,500 feet below.

The river is navigated by a passenger steamer, the "Rose of Helena," which carries parties up and down through the gorges of the mountains over a slackwater, backed up by the "Great Falls," that at times is as smooth and glassy as a lake. The upper landing is distant from Helena by a clear-cut trail, eighteen miles, while the river is reached from Helena in fifty miles by rail at the lower portion of the cañon region.

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