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SNOQUALMIE FALLS.

BY A. C. FLEMING.

The Falls are situated about forty-two miles above the junction of the Snoqualmie and Skykomish, which unite, forming the Snohomish, about eighteen miles above the mouth of the latter, where it enters the Sound at Port Gardner Bay.

The valleys of these three rivers form one of the most fertile regions of Western Washington. Besides their fertile bottom lands and the extensive tide and marsh lands, the latter are found about the three mouths of the Snohomish, timber for milling purposes is everywhere abundant and accessible. From forty to sixty millions of fir timber are annually cut and floated down these rivers and marketed at the various mills on the Sound. Cabinet woods are also abundant. Traces of coal deposits are found all through these valleys. In fact, they are on the line of a vast carboniferous belt, stretching across the country from Bellingham bay to the Columbia river, including the celebrated mines back of Seattle and the Puyallup valley. The Cascades, east of this place, the source of all three of these rivers and their tributaries, are rich in undeveloped mineral wealth—iron, gold, silver, galena, plumbago and cinnabar are there in paying quantities awaiting the magic wand of capital to develop into a mining region of untold wealth.

Only a few miles of the Snoqualmie is in Snohomish; nearly its whole course being in King county. The main branch of the Snoqualmie rises in the pass of the same name, among crags and peaks that are covered with perpetual snow. Eight miles above the Falls it unites with the Northeast fork of the Snoqualmie at the head of a nearly level piece of land containing nearly fifteen thousand acres, two-thirds of which is covered with timber. Through this it winds its serpentine course leisurely along till it reaches a bluff which once formed the eastern barrier of the ocean, down which it plunges two hundred and seventy-two feet perpendicular height, forming the grandest sight in Western Washington.

Unlike almost every other fall in the known world, it has no great rapids above it. Canoes can safely navigate the river above to within a few rods of the very brink. The river has cut a channel in the solid rock

nearly one hundred feet deep, showing that at some time in the far distant past, the fall was a hundred feet higher; and as the canyon below extends down the stream for three-fourths of a mile before reaching the valley, it must have worn back into the solid rock that far.

Like nearly every fall it is of the horseshoe form. At a low stage of water the stream is confined to the center of the channel, as seen in the engraving. When the river is bank full, it falls in an unbroken volume from the immense height above, with a roar that may be heard for miles, sending upward vast columns of mist and spray in which rainbow hues are perpetually dancing whenever rays of sunlight break through the clouds above.

Our view is taken from the south bank of the river, a few hundred yards below the falls, and is a faithful representation of this sublime scene.

At the junction of the main fork with the northeast branch, eight miles above the falls, springing abruptly from the head of the prairie, is Uncle Si's mountain, so called from a settler living at its base. It is a vast volcanic upheaval, scarred by glacial marks and worn by time into peaks and pinnacles inaccessible to the hardest climber. Its summit is easily reached from the southeast, and from there, in clear weather, a splendid panoramic view of Puget Sound Basin can be seen. The two main branches of the river, after washing its very base, unite at the head of

the prairie. The western face of the mountain is very abrupt and bare, and was sometime, without doubt, one of the sources of an immense glacier working westward toward the Pacific.

A VALUABLE RELIC.—Sometime ago we reprinted in *fac simile*, the first number of the first newspaper ever printed on the Pacific Coast. It was known as "The Oregon Spectator," and dated, Oregon City, February 5th, 1846. We still have a few copies on hand which we will send, postage paid, on receipt of ten cents or three copies for twenty-five cents. Every family on the Coast should possess and preserve one of these valuable documents.

A FEW STATISTICS.—From the annual review of the *Commercial Reporter*, which, by the way, is one of Oregon's most valuable papers, we call the following:
Total increase of population in Oregon during 1877, 20,000; total population at present, 140,000. Total value of exports from the Columbia river for the year 1876, \$11,825,087; during 1877, \$16,086,897. Aggregate amount of collections in the Internal Revenue department for the District of Oregon for the year 1877, \$55,021,661. Total number of money orders issued at the Portland postoffice during 1877, 6,059; value, \$116,981 67.

It is currently reported that a rail banking institution in this city is engaged in some very crooked business. As soon as we gather the indisputable facts, we shall give our readers the full benefit of them.

READ THIS OFFER.—To any one who is already a subscriber to THE WEST SHORE for 1878, we will send, on receipt of fifty cents currency or postage stamps, six months' back numbers, including our mammoth number of July last. Such a package of papers is just the thing to send to friends abroad, as it will give a more correct idea of the Pacific Northwest than all the immigration pamphlets that have ever been published.

THE DENTAL CHAIR.—A poem, with the above title, by Dr. Chance, of this city, has made its appearance and is for sale at all bookstores. While it lacks the finish which a professional writer could give it, yet, it possesses sufficient merit to entitle it to a careful reading by all. Price, fifty cents per copy.



SNOQUALMIE FALLS, W. T.—Engraved by CARL MUSTER.