

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

IN preparing illustrations for the current number our artists have selected representative scenes from every State and Territory in the Northwest, including California, the Province of British Columbia and the newly created Territory of Alaska. In each Nature seems to have done her utmost to please the eye and captivate the senses. Everywhere, be it the swaying pines and singing waters of the Sierras; the fir forests that crown the summits of the Cascades; the broad fields of white that drape the barren sides of lofty Hood; the crags and canyons of the Rockies, or the verdant coast of Alaska, skirted by fields of floating ice, broken from the huge glaciers pushed seaward from the Borean regions of the interior, she has set her seal and calls upon man to admire the perfection of her handiwork. Go where you will throughout this broad expanse objects are found to excite the deepest admiration. Nor are they a monotonous repetition—to weary the eye and dull the awakened senses. No two are cast in the same mould, and the wealth of material commanded by the moulder has given us an endless variety of objects of grandeur, beauty and wonder. Mountain torrents and lovely valley streams; graceful waterfalls and grand cataracts, whose roar resounds for miles, and causes the very ground to tremble; spouting geysers and boiling springs; rocky peaks, timber-clad summit ridges and snow-draped mountain giants, whose white crowns aspire to pierce the zenith; rocky or timber-covered mountain ranges and green-carpeted valleys; great bays and inland seas; deep lakes and mirror-like mountain tarns; rivers rushing tumultuously between high canyon walls or spreading out into broad and peaceful estuaries; rocky promontories thrusting themselves far out into the ocean to do battle with the billows, and long, gracefully curving stretches of sandy beach, where the tides peacefully come and go, or the angry breakers, lashed into fury by the wind, rush impetuously up the gentle slope, until their force is exhausted in vain effort to find something to oppose them—such are the scenes, ever fresh and inspiring, which the traveler through the Great West has constantly revealed to him, appealing to his nobler nature, and lifting him, for the time, above the harassing cares and vexations of life.

Army life in the Department of the Columbia is robbed of many of those hardships traditionally associated with the lot of a soldier. With a climate far from distressing at any season, with large and cleanly-kept barracks for the privates, and for the officers comfortable houses possessing all the requisites of a home, including the families of those who possess such military *impedimenta*, with a beautiful green-turfed parade ground and lovely surrounding landscapes, it would seem as though few complaints should be made. A glance at the engravings of Fort Canby and Fort Cœur d'Alene will give one a splendid idea of the character of our military posts, the latter being more typical in its style, since Fort Canby was compelled to accommodate itself to circumstances. A large, rectangular parade ground, as nearly level as

possible, and covered by a thick and closely cut turf, in the center of which rises the flagstaff, is surrounded by the houses of the officers, the barracks of the soldiers, hospital, guard house, gymnasium, etc., the whole presenting a highly pleasing appearance. The various posts have been selected with special reference to their convenient location for military purposes and the beauty of their surroundings. Fort Vancouver, the headquarters of the department, stands on the north bank of the Columbia, on a bench sloping gently from the water's edge, and commands a fine view of the river, the Cascade Mountains and the kingly Mount Hood. Cœur d'Alene rests on the bank of that beautiful mountain lake, surrounded by the grand landscapes of the Cœur d'Alene Mountains. Fort Canby lies at the inside base of the promontory at the north side of the entrance to the Columbia River, known as "Cape Disappointment" or "Hancock." It is one of the regular attractions of that region, and is annually visited by the thousands who go every season to Ilwaco and North Beach to spend a few days at "the coast." Fort Walla Walla, a favorite cavalry post, stands on an elevated bench in the valley, at the very edge of the city of Walla Walla, back of which, in the evening, rise the purple and indigo summits of the Blue Mountains. Other posts, all of them in most beautiful locations, are Forts Boise, Lapwai, Klamath, Spokane, Colville, Adams and Townsend. The Twenty-first Infantry and Second Cavalry will never forget these beautiful homes they occupied so long, which will no doubt become ere long as dear to their successors, the First Cavalry and Fourteenth Infantry, to whose former stations in Montana and Nebraska our old friends have gone.

The McLeod (usually and improperly spelled "McCloud") is one of the most beautiful streams of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and with Pit River forms the chief source of the Sacramento. The latter stream heads in Goose Lake, a large body of water lying along the California and Oregon boundary line, and is, in fact, the true source of the Sacramento, being much longer and larger above the point of junction than the branch which now bears the title of the main stream from its source at the base of the white-robed Shasta. In early years Pit River was called the "East Fork of the Sacramento," and it was up this stream that Fremont passed in the spring of 1846, and down which he returned a few weeks later on his way to inaugurate the campaign which wrested California from Mexico. Pit River received its name from the custom of the natives along its banks of digging pits in which to capture bear and deer, and even entrap strange warriors who might set hostile foot in their hunting grounds. The pits were dug in the regular trails made by animals, and were from twelve to fourteen feet deep and conical in shape, with a small opening at the top, which was covered with brush and dirt so carefully as to completely deceive the unpracticed eye. All loose dirt was removed and a trail made over the pit, near which signs, such as broken twigs, etc., were placed, that gave warning to members of the tribe of the location