

SUMMIT OF THE SISKIYOU.

THE Siskiyou are an abrupt and rugged chain of mountains lying along the boundary line of Oregon and California. They extend from Klamath Lake nearly to the ocean, and form the watershed between Rogue and Klamath rivers. The name is a peculiar one and its significance is the subject of much dispute. As in other cases of doubtful nomenclature, a number of theorists have "taken a shy at it," with varied results, based upon euphony of sound combined with a few grains of plausibility. Some of these gentlemen tell us that on the summit of the mountain, just north of the boundary line, there is a beautiful level spot, watered by cool springs, that overlooks the country for miles on either side. It was here the powerful Shasta, Rogue River and Klamath tribes were accustomed to congregate, smoke their pipes in token of amity, indulge in dancing and games, and exchange those friendly offices so usual with neighboring tribes living in peace. This place they called "Sis-ki-you," or the council ground. Another tells us that the early half-breed trappers, whose language was the patois French spoken in certain portions of Canada, observed six large stones lying near the summit, whereupon they christened the mountains "Sex Calloax," which has been transformed into the present appellation by the lapse of time and the proverbial tendency of the pioneers to round off the corners of names without much regard to their significance. There are, to be sure, plenty of stones to be seen on the Siskiyou, but no one pretends to designate the patriarchal six.

The most authentic account of the naming of Siskiyou Mountain is as follows: The first party of Hudson's Bay Company trappers to penetrate into California left Vancouver in the summer or fall of 1827, headed by Alexander Roderick McLeod. As they passed along they bestowed many of the names now familiar in Southern Oregon. One of the trappers, Jean Baptiste Parroult, had an old white horse with an abbreviated caudal appendage, known in English as a "bobtail" and in the mongrel French of the trappers a "siskiyou." One night, while encamped on the mountain, this animal was confiscated by the Indians. A short pursuit of the trail in the morning revealed the body of the animal, from which a number of neither juicy nor tender steaks had been cut. The trappers named the scene of this incident "Siskiyou," which therefore signifies "the mountain of the bobtail horse." By reference to Gill's "Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon," which is composed of a mixture of poor English, poorer French and Indian words of doubtful derivation, it will be found that Siskiyou and bobtail are synonymous.

The scenery of the Siskiyou is grand and imposing. Rising almost abruptly from the Klamath River on the one side and Rogue River Valley on the other, they reach almost to the line of perpetual snow, their sides clothed with dense forests and seamed with deep canyons. The view from some commanding eminence is indescribably grand—on the north revealing the mountains and valleys of Oregon, including many of the lesser snow peaks of

the Cascades, and on the south the blended chains of the Sierras and Coast Range, above which rises the kingly Shasta with its dual crown, with no object to obstruct the view from base to summit.

The point chosen by our artist is on the road over which run the stages of the California & Oregon Stage Company, and near the summit, which here, however, is much lower than in the more rugged portion of the mountains to the westward. Cole's Station, as it is called, is one of the pioneer landmarks of that region, and has been a stage station for years. Near it runs the State boundary line, and not far distant is the well-known Pilot Rock. Through this region runs the proposed route of the railroad which will connect the Oregon & California with the Central Pacific, and not far from this point is the location of the great tunnel by which it will pierce the mountain. The stage ride from Ashland to Delta, the two railroad terminal points, is one of but twenty hours, passing through the grand scenery of the Siskiyou, Klamath River and Shasta Valley in the daytime. By this route one can travel from Portland to San Francisco in sixty hours, only a few hours more than by water (when steamer makes good time), and be surrounded continually by Nature's most attractive forms. The inconvenience of a night on the stage is fairly offset by the disagreeable sickness of the steamer. To the lover of Nature the overland route needs no recommendation in the summer time.

AN ELECTRIC SUN COLUMN.

MR. J. BOURDAIS recently presented to the Paris Society of Civil Engineers a project that he has been studying, and that concerns the erection of a masonry tower 300 meters (984 feet) in height. After an examination of the different geometric profiles realizable, Mr. Bourdais has adopted the column as being more apt than any other form to satisfy the rules of aesthetics, and also as being the most stable. In fact, the highest chimney in the world, that of St. Rollox, Glasgow, 433 feet in height, has been submitted to numerous storms without suffering therefrom, and as other chimneys exposed to great wind pressure have never given rise to any accident, it results that a cylindrical form is the one that should be adopted. In short, Mr. Bourdais' structure would consist of a base 216 feet in height, in which would be established a permanent museum of electricity. Above this would rise a six-story column surmounted by a roof, forming a promenade, and capable of accommodating 2,000 persons. The central granite core, 60 feet in diameter, would be surrounded with an ornamental framework of iron faced with copper. This would be divided into six stories, each containing 16 rooms, designed for aerotherapeutic treatment. Finally at the summit would be placed an enormous electric lamp that would cast a flood of light over the entire city. This lamp would have an intensity equal to that of 2,000,000 Carcel burners. The lamp would be surmounted by a statue representing the Genius of Science. This would make the entire structure 1,180 feet high, or more than twice the altitude of the Washington Monument, now the highest structure in the world.