

went down, the ice began to freeze and crack, big pieces continually falling down. Sometimes a mass of the hard, overhanging snow would break off from the brow of the mountain and crash down upon the glacier, sending up clouds of snow dust like smoke. Several times during the night we were awakened by great masses of falling ice, thundering and shaking the ground like discharges of artillery.

The next morning, as the early light was changing the pink of the overhanging mountain into dazzling white, we started up again. We followed the rocky spur on the northeast corner of the mountain for about two miles, ascending about three thousand feet, the Carbon River glacier lying below us on our right, and the double White River glacier to the left. Soon the rocky path ended in a perpendicular wall, and we were obliged to turn toward the east on to the White River glacier. Unfortunately we had climbed the rocks too far, and it was necessary either to go a mile back, or to reach the glacier by a natural bridge of ice several hundred yards long and inclined about fifty degrees. Here a little incident occurred, not very pleasant at the time, but which has been a great source of pleasure since, as with variations it has been made the base of a most thrilling tale to nervous lady acquaintances. We were crossing along this inclined plane, cutting steps with the axe, about one hundred feet above a very wide and deep crevasse, into which a misstep might plunge us at any instant. We were proceeding finely and were more than half way across when it seemed to one of the party that we were going needlessly slow, so he started ahead of the cut steps. It went all right for a few feet, then he slipped a little, and then began sliding toward the big crevasse at a fearful rate of speed. The only hope of safety was in his alpine-stock. Grasping this close to its sharp point, and turning over upon his face, he stuck it into the ice with all the force he could command and clung to it for dear life. It had the desired effect. The point cut a deep ridge in the ice, making the frosty chips fly into the air, and taking a liberal quantity of skin from off his hand, but it checked the speed, and brought him to a halt just above the crevasse. It was the most exciting three seconds of his life.

On the glacier we found the traveling comparatively easy, for the head of a glacier is really the long snow slope of the mountain, with but few crevasses in the higher altitudes. We encountered two places where the ascent was extremely difficult, points where a great thickness of snow had cracked and the lower part slipped down, leaving a wall twenty-five feet high. After climbing these by aid of the axe, plodding steadily up the steep incline of the main cone, on the north side of the eastern spur, we found that we had reached a point quite above the landmarks of our former attempt. The barometer indicated an altitude of eleven thousand five hundred, then twelve thousand feet, and at five hundred more it stopped altogether, although it was graduated to sixteen thousand feet. At one o'clock we rested behind a little shelter to eat our cold lunch, moistening our lips with pieces of ice; but the wind was too raw and cold to

permit us to sit still long with comfort. We plodded away again, sometimes going directly up for a quarter of a mile on a smooth incline of about forty-five degrees, then turning to one side to escape a crevasse. But our continued exertions and the rarity of the atmosphere at that high altitude told upon us severely. Fifteen, then ten, minute rests were necessary. Still we were making excellent progress. When a point which, from below, had seemed one of the peaks of the mountain was about on a level with us, the altitude began to affect the surveyor seriously. We were compelled to chafe his feet to keep them from freezing, and with open mouth he could not inhale enough air to fill his lungs. He became pale and faint, and finally said he would have to give it up, but urged us to go on. I was very tired also, and as it was after two o'clock was not very anxious to proceed. However, the lawyer pushed on and I followed. Going up a hundred yards and looking back we saw our companion staggering as if he could hardly stand. That decided us, and we turned back. After descending a thousand feet he recovered considerably, and we made good progress, finding a better path to camp than the one by which we had come.

We felt rather depressed that evening. There was only enough flour and bacon remaining to last two days. I was mixing flapjacks by the brook when the lawyer came down to me and said that he had made up his mind to go up the mountain next day, and if I would not accompany him he would go alone. We knew the route better, and it would be easier than the day before. I agreed to go with him. The next morning the surveyor announced that he would also make the attempt, and if the faintness came on he would return alone. With that understanding we started about seven o'clock, following our last evening's trail. By noon we reached our lunching place of the previous day, and were thus nearly an hour in advance. We soon passed our highest mark of the day before, and going around a point of snow discovered that the summit lay only a short distance beyond. The inspiration of success was upon us and overcame our fatigue, though we had to stop every five minutes to catch a full breath. We found that what appears to be the summit from the north and from Tacoma is not in reality the highest point, but only a northern ridge. We passed up the valley connecting this ridge, then ascended the little round snow-covered dome which forms the real summit, and, arm in arm, so that we might all be first, marched to the topmost point. We had just given three wild Western cheers to express our exultation at being, as we supposed, the first human beings to stand upon the white summit of Mount Rainier, when our eyes fell upon a walking stick protruding from the snow. It was a most common, scrubby looking affair, but was sufficient evidence of the previous presence of some human being who had planted it there as a warning to all who came after him not to claim too much for themselves, and our ardor was considerably dampened.

It was now half-past two, and we had but a brief time to make observations. The summit consists of two basin-