

THE WEST SHORE.

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THE CITY AT THE FALLS.



THE MAN who complained because the train stopped fifteen minutes before the lovely Multnomah falls, to give passengers an opportunity to "see a dab of water falling on a rock," could find

no fault with the volume of water pouring in a mass of surging white over the basaltic rocks of the Willamette falls, at Oregon City. Even if not entranced by the beauty of the scene, his mind could not fail to be impressed with the power displayed and the vast energy waiting to be converted to the economic uses of man. The falls (see large three-page engraving opposite page 592) win expressions of admiration alike from the poetical and practical. The former exclaims "How beautiful! how grand!" and the latter, "What immense power! What an opportunity for manufacturing on the largest scale!" and both are right, for beauty, grandeur, power, and economic manufacturing conditions are here combined as in no other spot on the great continent of America.

The Willamette river, having come

down from the mountains, and united with numerous other streams, whose fountain heads are, also, the melting snows and crystal springs of the mountains, flows peacefully through miles of grain-carpeted valley and timber-clad hills, bearing on its bosom the commerce of a vast region, rich with the fruits of the soil, suddenly reaches the brink of this basaltic precipice, forty-one feet in height, and plunges over. The edge of the fall is jagged, broken and indented, and the water, instead of pouring over in one smooth sheet, forms numerous separate cataracts and cascades, many of them rushing together from almost opposite directions, lashing the water into foaming white, and sending up great clouds of spray, which sparkles in the sunlight and shows the brilliant, prismatic colors of the rainbow.

The name Willamette is of Indian origin, and not French, as would appear from its orthography. It is pronounced Will-am-et, and was originally spelled and pronounced Wal-am-et, by the earliest pioneers, as appears from old records, diaries and publications, and this orthography is still adhered to by a few of them who can not be induced to adopt the modern form. In theory they are