



WATERFALLS OF THE COLUMBIA.

One of the leading attractions of the scenery along the Lower Columbia, as that portion of the river below the cascades is called, is the numerous waterfalls that leap from the brow of the high basaltic cliffs forming the Columbia gorge and dash themselves in showers of spray into rocky pools at the base of the bluffs. Five of these are passed within a few miles, Multnomah, Bridal Veil, Latourelle, Horsetail and Oneonta, and in season of high water there are many little ones here and there. All these are on the Oregon side of the river, where the cliffs are higher than on the Washington shore. However, on the north side at one place the cliffs rise abruptly from the water at a slight bend in the stream, known as "Cape Horn," and here, when the rains have swollen the streams, many little waterfalls dash down the castellated sides of the dark wall of rock, making an enchanting picture as the steamer passes almost within reach of the spray that floats about the base of the bluffs. The best known of these falls is Multnomah, which is the best situated for observation from the line of the Union Pacific, which passes within a few yards of it, or from the deck of a steamer on the river. The fall is 800 feet high, and

is one of remarkable beauty. It is divided into two sections, the first, about 700 feet high, being the one that calls for admiration. During the excursion season, which extends from April to July, Multnomah falls is the objective point of many an excursion by steamer from Portland. Latourelle and Bridal Veil are also frequently visited in this way, the excursionists taking baskets of edibles along and picnicking on the ground near the base of the falls. The excursionists amuse themselves by going behind the falling sheet of water, a rather wet and muddy experience, by climbing about the cliffs, hunting for flowers and ferns and gathering mosses. Often the sketch book and easel are seen in use, and the frequent click of the "you-press-the-button" machine strikes upon the ear. A day spent on one of these excursions is one full of genuine pleasure. In the winter time, during the few weeks of cold weather in the mountains, the falls present a beautiful sight. The spray is blown about by the winds and gradually freezes in long pendants from the rocks, encroaching steadily upon the falling sheet until it becomes a solid mass of ice of the most beautiful form imaginable. This only occurs when cold blasts sweep down the Columbia gorge, and the icy columns are soon disintegrated when the warm breath of the Chinook blows up the gorge again.

