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MONDAY, JAN. 21, 1895.

## A BIG WHALE ON LAND

STRANGE DISCOVERIES MADE IN  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

Skeleton of the Big Fish Unearthed in a  
Street in Los Angeles—The Old Prospector's Discovery—Hillside Written in the Hills and the Rocks.

Once while watching the excavation of a street through one of the steep hills that constitute a feature of the city of Los Angeles I saw something projecting from the soil, which, when uncovered by the workmen, proved to be the skeleton of a whale that had been lying there for untold ages. Its huge length stretched across the street, its tail lost beneath the fashionable houses of the vicinity.

There was something irresistibly fascinating in this discovery. As the skeleton was put, it of a whale, and whenever I passed that way I almost expected to hear some one shout, "There she blows!" and could see in my mind's eye the giant rising from the deep water that once flowed over the now populous City of the Angels and the surrounding hills. Having had this slight experience with whales on dry land, I was not surprised when a friend related a similar experience to me and the astonishment its discovery produced. He was an old resident and in former years had been a prospector, and at times the old fever for discovery came upon him, upon which he would wander off on the edge of the desert or up among the mountains of southern California in search of gold.

On one of these expeditions he followed up a dry wash, which in winter was a roaring torrent, and which for ages had set down the rock and gravel of the adjacent mountains to the valley below, finally turning into a branch canyon, which gradually grew narrower and narrower until he found himself at the top of the range near the divide overlooking a deep amphitheater. On the north side the mountain had been cut down vertically, and from where the stool it looked as though a gigantic knife had cleaved the mountain side, leaving the edge bare and the red earth filled with great boulders, ready to roll down after each winter rain.

This ledge and the deposit at its base attracted the attention of the prospector, and coming to the latter he found among the heaps of stones a huge bone, which might have passed for the rib of a tree imbedded in the soil. Following up the slope, he raised his eye to the cliff and saw protruding from it other bones. Gradually, to his amazement, they took shape, and he saw the skeleton of a gigantic whale stretched along the side of the mountain, standing out in strong relief against the red earth. Some of the bones had fallen down, but the greater number stood in the natural position, as the monster had died, and the whale that had once swum over this spot and exposed its enormous length to the hot sun now lay stretched along the ancient sea bottom. It had been lifted by some mighty cataclysm 2,500 feet into the air, the roots of the great trees clasping its bones, the winter rains undermining it, while the sea that was once its home had receded and lay like in the summer heat 20 miles away.

The old prospector could hardly realize for a moment that the skeleton of the monster was before him. Then, taking his pick and attacking it, he became a whaler literally among the pines of the southern Sierras.

I have since seen portions of another whale in a branch of the coast range near San Juan Capistrano, and not far distant, in a gulch, was discovered the remains of a large plant allied to the mammoth, while ten miles from San Juan I visited a bed of large shells that covered acres of country, so closely packed together that they were shoveled out in solid masses and growing up into trees.

Along the southern Sierras, especially in the coast range, it is possible to go whaling, fishing and shell hunting from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the present level of the ocean and with a positive assurance of finding the remains of some of these stranded animals. That this extraordinary convulsion of nature did not occur so very long ago is evident from the good preservation of the bones, and on the seashore shells are found 40 feet above high water mark almost identical with those living below them.

Several thousand years ago came the birth of the coast range of mountains. They were forced upward, and with them the entire coast was elevated. Previous to this the ocean undoubtedly plowed over the orange groves of southern California, and the great deserts may have been arms of the sea from which projected isolated peaks.

The island of Catalina probably appeared at this time, and upon its summit are found great deposits of shells 2,000 feet above the sea. With them are found the teeth of gigantic sharks that must have been nearly 100 feet in length, capable of attacking the largest whales.

The entire country of northern California presents the details of its history in stone, and one familiar with those evidences may turn the leaves and read them as a book. Among the hills that contained the bones of these leviathans I found deposits of fine clay, the bed of an ancient lake in which were the remains of myriads of fishes that had been left by the water and buried in the bottom, to be found in after ages to tell their story.—Los Angeles Times.

A large fish was found in the neighborhood of the city of Los Angeles, which was discovered by a prospector, and the skeleton of the monster was before him. Then, taking his pick and attacking it, he became a whaler literally among the pines of the southern Sierras.

Notice is hereby given to the public by the undersigned that I do not allow dead animals to be buried on my premises, at Roseburg, Oregon, or anywhere else, unless they are properly disposed of, and that I will not allow anyone to bury a dead animal on my premises, unless they are properly disposed of, and that I will not allow anyone to bury a dead animal on my premises, unless they are properly disposed of.

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