

THE COLUMBIAN.

U. S. OFFICIAL PAPER.

GREATEST THINGS ON EARTH.

The highest range of mountains is the Himalaya, the main elevation being estimated at from 16,000 to 18,000 feet.

The loftiest mountain is Mount Everest or Gurkha, of the Hindu range, having an elevation of 29,024 feet above the sea level.

The largest theater is the new Opera House in Paris. It covers nearly the entire ground. Its cubic mass is 4,700,000 feet. It cost about 100,000,000 francs.

The largest suspension bridge will be the new one building between New York and Brooklyn. The length of the main span is 1,385 feet 6 inches; the entire length of the bridge, 5,985 feet.

The loftiest active volcano is Peperoncito, "the smoking mountain," this year's name southwest of Puntiaco, Mexico. It is 17,784 feet above the sea-level, and has a crater three miles in circumference and 1,000 feet deep.

The largest island in the world, which is also regarded as a continent, is Australia. It is 2,500 miles in length from east to west, and measures 1,950 miles from north to south. Its area is 2,981,274 square miles.

The longest span of wire in the world is used for a telegraph in India, over the river Rishna, between Benares and Srirangam. It is more than 6,000 feet long, and is stretched between two hills.

The longest ship in the world is the Great Eastern. She is 60 feet long, 81 feet broad and 60 feet deep, being 22,927 tons burthen, 18,915 gross, and 11,614 net register. She was built at Millwall, on the Thames, and was launched Jan. 31, 1857.

The largest body of water in the world is Lake Superior—41 miles long, 160 miles wide at its greatest breadth, and having an area of 32,000 square miles. Its mean depth is said to be 165, and its greatest depth about 2,000 fathoms. Its surface is about 635 feet above the level of the sea.

The most extensive park is Deer Park, in the environs of Copenhagen, Denmark. The income, consisting about 6,200 acres, and is divided by a small river. The largest piece of ground in this country, and one of the largest in the world, is Farm-in-a-Park, Philadelphia, which contains 2,742 acres.

The biggest tree in the world is the Mammoth tree, in Laramie county, Ky. It is near Green river, six miles from Cave City, and about twenty-eight miles from Banning Green. The tree consists of a succession of irregular chambers, some of which are larger than those on the outside. Some of these are frayed by lightning, branches of the same names, and fish are found in them.

The largest tunnel in the world is that of St. Gotthard, on the line of railroads between Lucerne and Milan. The summit of the tunnel is 50 feet below the surface at Aarau, and 6,634 feet below the peak of K. St. Gotthard, in the Swiss Alps.

The tunnel is 263 feet wide and 19 feet 10 inches from the floor to the crown, and the bed road is 14 feet 6 inches high—14 miles longer than the St. Gotthard.

The biggest tree in the world is the Redwood, in Humboldt county, Calif. On the coast of California, the Redwood is the largest tree in the world.

The longest river in the world is the Amazon, in South America, 3,000 miles long, and having an area of 2,000,000 square miles. Its mean depth is said to be 165, and its greatest depth about 2,000 fathoms. Its surface is about 635 feet above the level of the sea.

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G. W. McBRIE.

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