This unexpected part of the journey proved to be very pleasant, for the river was more beautiful than at any place lower down. One particular feature was the fine rapids extending for a quarter of a mile in a miniature canon. In the eddies below a dozen aborigines were fishing for salmon with nets.

A turn in the river brought us directly facing old Sauk, which we readily recognized, with its patches of snow on the northern slope; we were at a loss, however, to see the city which we were told lay at its base. One little shanty was the only sign of human habitation that could be seen, but this, with its one occupant, proved to constitute the city. A fire that had been set to clear off some land, was blazing briskly half a mile below the house; but as we were hungry, we hastened on without heeding it.

Old Graves, a retired wood-chopper, and mayor of the city, greeted us kindly, and extended us the greatest hospitality.

We had all retired for the night, when the Indian called us up, saying a fire was raging near by. He had heard the crackling and smelt the smoke, and suspecting the cause, had looked out to see the reason. The fire that had been burning farther down the river, had been driven on by the breeze, and had rapidly marched up the valley. Already it was almost upon the house, so we lost no time in defending the property. Gallons upon gallons of water were carried from the river and dashed on the fire, but seemingly in vain. The heat was intense, and the perspiration flowed from some of us as it had never done before. The roof of the shanty took fire from flying sparks; and while we were subduing that, the dried grass burned all around the house, setting fire to one of the corners of the building. It seemed then, as if human strength was powerless; but we worked on as if for life, and finally quenched the flames before great damage resulted to the house. It was well on to midnight before all danger was past, and we sank to rest again.

The morning was well advanced before the party was ready to begin the ascent of the mountain. The way was indicated by a trail leading through a forest of Douglas firs, which supplied the city with wood. Passing through this we came to the steep ascent, and then we wished for horses. Frequent knolls afforded agreeable resting-places, where we could lie down and view the scenery, at the same time enjoying, for the stomach's sake, whole bunches of purple elderberries. The scenery was exceedingly beautiful, and cannot be realized by one who has not seen the like. Mt. Baker, capped with eternal snow, lay to the north, with broad green ridges to right and left. Directly below us the Skagit flowed on, appearing in the distance like a winding silver thread. On the west the sound could be faintly seen, with columns of smoke rising from the numberless saw-mills upon its shores. To the west lay the cañon of the upper Skagit, where but a few years before gold was found, and where people flocked by hundreds. The precious metal was scarce, however, and the fever had subsided entirely at the time of our trip. Near by the cañon, in the neighboring cliffs, could be seen a huge bed of mineral paint, much used by the Indians for painting their faces.

Our upward journey led us past numerous ledges of minerals. With our scanty knowledge of geology we were able to identify limestone and copper-bearing rock. Outcrops of coal were visible in some places along the banks of the torrents, while we obtained some very nice specimens of quartz crystals. In the shale connected with the coal we found prints of ferns, which were extremely well defined.

We reached the summit of Sauk about the middle of the afternoon, and as we climbed up the rocks to the level plateau, two deer went scampering away before us. As we appeared in full sight, numerous flocks of grouse noisily flew up into a few trees that stood on the southern exposure, while a little black bear jumped up from behind a boulder and rushed over the farther side of the summit as if shot from a cannon. The immediate scene was exquisite, and well repaid us for the trouble of climbing. The summit was a table, about a third of a mile in diameter, which sloped from all sides toward