A Visit to Shoshone Falls.

The Snake River rises in Wyoming near the head waters of the Yellowstone, flows with a broad curve through southern Idaho and then after having formed the boundary between Idaho and its western neighbors, Oregon and Washington, for nearly two hundred miles it passes into Washington and at a distance of a little more than one hundred miles unites with the Columbia. The total distance traversed in its winding course is approximately nine hundred miles. Its head waters have an altitude above sea-level of about eight thousand feet, nearly two thousand feet higher than the highest point in New England. Through southern Idaho it flows through a broad valley, a hundred miles or more in width, whose entire expanse is covered with thick flows of lava. The altitude of the river above sea-level through this portion of its course varies from six thousand feet at the northeast to less than three thousand at the west while at its junction with the Columbia it is about eight hundred feet.

In the summer of 1892 a party in charge of the writer made a trip for the purposes of geological study across the continent going via Northern Pacific R. R. and returning via Canadian Pacific. During this trip the important places visited were the iron and copper regions of Michigan; the Yellowstone Park; the mines of Butte, Montana; Shoshone Falls; the Coeur d'Alene region; the Columbia River Falls; Mt. Hood with its glaciers; Puget Sound; the Great Glacier of the Selkirks and the Canadian Hot Springs at Banf.

At Butte, Montana, we had been entertained by Charles W. Goodale of '75 and Will Adams of '78. Without their assertions we should scarcely have recognized that Butte is a most desirable place in which to live. With its entire absence of vegetation, both outside and within the houses, completely bare, brown and dusty yards, there were no gardens, it seemed to us a city in a desert, a picture of desolation is due. They pour so much sulphur from mines and furnaces. It is to these last that the desolation is due. They pour so much sulphur from the ores into the atmosphere all the time that all plant life is killed.

The visit to the Shoshone Falls was a digression from our main route as we were to return to Butte before continuing our journey.

We left Butte for this extended and most interesting side trip at seven o'clock on the morning of June 27. Passing first along the side of the Silver Bow River and then crossing the low divide between this and the Beaver Head or Jefferson River, beside which we rode for some distance, we found the scenery rather uninteresting. Then we crossed the grand continental divide, the summit of the Rockies, so announced by a huge sign-board, and passed into Idaho.