

We profited by the delay to climb up to the face of the glacier which overhung the camp. The climb up the mountain side was difficult, there being a constant succession of cliffs, the rocks of which had been so severely wrenched by glacial action that it was not safe to trust to them for handhold or foothold; so that we depended mainly on the stout bushes or young saplings which grew in the crevices and on the benches. These trees averaged fifteen or twenty feet in length—I say length, for most of them grew straight out horizontally, and some even had a down-hill inclination; this was evidently the result of the weight of snow and ice moving down hill over them for a large part of the year.

We were well paid for our trouble on reaching the glacier, which expanded before our eyes as we drew nearer. It was of pure blue ice, extremely beautiful; and its front rose perpendicularly for several hundred feet. A

deep chasm separated it from us as we stood on the summit of a pinnacle of bare rock, a few hundred feet away; and as we looked across we saw great irregular clefts and caverns of the deepest blue, guarded by slender towers. Further up the great blue-white field stretched till lost to sight in the mists of the mountain, its surface seamed and cracked and obstructed by huge, irregular mounds, so as to be apparently impassable. I have seen few things more awe-inspiring than this great ice-field, this vast, pure, chaotic silence.

As we sat we noticed a very slender spire of ice quite near which seemed as if it must topple. After awhile it began to aggravate us that it would not, so we began shooting at it with the repeating

rifle which we had brought along, firing a number of shots in rapid succession for the purpose of knocking it over. This we did not succeed in doing, but when we got back to camp we found that our shots had greatly excited the Indians who were camped near by, and who imagined that we were quarreling with one of the great bears found in these mountains. The idea of a sensible being shooting at a piece of ice is not readily grasped by the savage mind.

From Sheep Camp, where we were, the only way to get our supplies over the pass was to get Indians to carry them. Although these Indians are no stronger than average white men, yet

they greatly excel them in point of endurance; and they willingly undergo extreme fatigue for any limited period. At this time, however, the trail was so bad, on account of the softening of the snows in the hot June sun, that they concluded to strike for higher wages. This was the cause

of some little delay for us, for most of the men in camp were opposed to yielding, especially the miners, who represented that the increased cost would inconvenience them considerably. So began a siege on both sides; we announced our intention to the Indians of staying in this pleasant place for a month or two, and both in our camp and in that of the Siwash the most ostentatious carelessness prevailed. Late in the day this state of affairs was interrupted by the action of one small party of miners, who were anxious to get at the gold which they imagined lying around thickly in some interior gulch, waiting for the first comer to pick it up, and so went secretly to the other camp and compromised



LAKE BENNETT.

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