Mountains and Mountaincering in the Far West. 387

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Coast of cenhow, Mountains known to be within British territory was one between Mount Brown and Mount Hooker, known as the Boat Encampment, in latitude 54° 10', but it was impassable for horses.

Mount Murchison is not marked in Colton's or Johnson and Ward's American Atlases, only on the latest maps. It was first discovered on September 18, 1858, by Captain Palliser, who in his Report of Exploration in British North America says that it occupies a central position among other high and precipitous mountains. 'The Indians say this is the highest mountain they know of, and, if a rough triangulation that I made of what I supposed to be the same peak from the Kootanie Plain is to be trusted, it must be 8,000 to 9,000 feet above that point, or 13,000 to 14,000 feet above the sea. The average altitude of the mountains is 11,000 to 12,000 feet above the sea, and I do not place much reliance on estimates of altitudes greater than that, as there is a striking appearance of uniformity in the altitude of the mountains. However, their shape, always partaking of a eraggy nature, is very deceiving, and whenever I have been able to get any measurement I always found that I had underrated the true height.'

Mount Baker, fourteen miles south of the boundary line of the British possessions. It was so named by Vancouver, who first explored these coasts, in compliment to his third lieutenant Joseph Baker, who discovered it. Its Indian name is Tukullum, or White Stone. The height given in the list, viz., 10,814 feet, is from a trigonometrical measurement made by Captain Lawson, of the United States Coast Survey. By aneroid barometer I found it to be 10,695 feet; but as Captain Lawson informed me that his instruments were very fine, and as he is an officer of high scientific attainments, perhaps his estimate is the more correct of the two. It will be as well to remark here that the heights of these peaks, as given, do not furnish a standard of their height according to Alpine estimates of the snow and glacier travel to be got through in ascending a mountain. For, owing to the higher latitude, the snow line is much lower than in the Alps, consequently there is a greater amount of glacier or snow to be travelled over, as before hinted. determined the snow line on Mount Baker to be 5,175 feet above the sea by aneroid barometer, but consider that for the coast generally it may be taken at 6,000 feet. So that a mountain of 11,000 feet in height on the Pacific slope affords as much ice and snow work as one of 13,000 feet in the Alps. Owing to the extraordinary clearness of the atmosphere, Mount Baker can be plainly made out from the neighbourhood

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