

NOTES ON NORTH-WESTERN AMERICA.*

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WATERSHEDS.—The main continental watershed is of course the general line of the Rocky Mountains (tinted red), which continue through Alaska to the extreme point, near Cape Lisburne. There is, however, an exception to this general rule near the heads of Peace River, where the main chain is disrupted, and the waters originate in the Peak Range of Arrowsmith's Map, which range here forms an extraordinary loop with the main line. Both afterwards unite with the N.W. Coast Range, and continue as one, nearly as far as the 60th parallel, where a divergence again takes place, and the Southern Coast Range of Alaska originates.

The *Sierra Nevada*, the chief range of California, separates near the frontier of Oregon; the eastern branch, known as the Blue Mountains, dividing the waters of the main Columbia River from those of its great tributary, the Snake; the western, under the name of the Cascade Range, continuing north-westward into British Columbia, as far as the junction of the Thompson with the Fraser in $50^{\circ} 13'$, where it terminates. The Cascade Range is disrupted at a point between Mounts Hood and St. Helens; the Columbia River then breaking through and forming a strong rapid known as the "Cascades," whence the name given to the range. This name, however, originates not from any peculiarity in the rapid itself, but from several lofty waterfalls, formed by streamlets pouring down the perpendicular face of the disrupted mountain in the immediate vicinity. The height of the passes in this range varies from 3,000 to 5,000 feet; the peaks sometimes rising to an altitude of 15,000. Mount Rainier, the most lofty of the northern portion, has an elevation of 12,360 feet. Most if not all of these summits are volcanoes, either extinct or in partial eruption at distant intervals. It may here be mentioned that the term "Cascade Range," through a total misapprehension of the leading features of the country, has of late years been extended

* Descriptive matter intended to accompany a "Skeleton Map of North-West America," prepared by Mr. Anderson to send to the Philadelphia International Exhibition of 1876.