mind I would wade the next creek.

Down Taiya Pass flows a small river, the Dayay of Schwatka, navigable for canoes to about six miles above the mouth: above this the current is too swift and rough for boats, and everything intended for the interior has to be carried over the mountains on men's backs, a distance of about seventeen and a half miles. The Pass is heavily wooded to within about two miles of the summit; and getting through these woods, especially with the canoes, was a matter of patience and Christian forbearance.

There is only one really dangerous spot, however,—where the little river runs between perpendicular, or rather overhanging, rock banks. The path for a little distance runs close to the brink, and a misstep here would precipitate one some three hundred feet to the bed of the stream below.

The river has to be crossed three or ing is about thirty yards wide, and the current is so strong that unless one has a load on his back he can hardly stand on his feet. The Indians when crossing carry a stout stick which they use as a prop while making a step. The women, while fording the stream, tie their skirts up very high and use their sticks as dexterously as the men. Before my canoes came up to this point I had to cross twice; the second time while I was very warm from clambering down the steep side of a hill thirteen hundred and sixty feet high. To people living in ordinary conditions, this would seem dangerous, but no ill effects resulted to me from my cold bath.

From the timber line to the summit, the slope is easy and uniform, with the exception of one steep bit, in which there is a rise of five hundred feet in about as many yards. When packing over the Pass, the Indians, if

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four times in the Pass, and as the water, flowing from the glaciers above, is ice cold, it will never be resorted to as a bathing place. The lowest cross- they get to the timber limit during the day, remain there until about midnight, when the snow in the Pass is frozen, and they can travel over it