

is here 300 yards wide, with perpendicular cliffs on each side, not less than 100 feet high. For 90 or 100 yards from the left cliff, the water falls in one smooth, even sheet, over a precipice at least 80 feet high. The remaining part of the river precipitates itself also with great rapidity; but being received as it falls by irregular and projecting rocks, forms a splendid prospect of white foam, 200 yards in length, and 80 in perpendicular elevation. The spray is dissipated in a thousand shapes, flying up in high columns, and collecting into large masses, which the sun adorns with all the colouring of the rainbow. The fall, just described, must be one of the most magnificent and picturesque that is any where to be found. It has often been disputed, whether a cataract, in which the water falls in one sheet, or where it is dashed irregularly among the rocks, is the finest object. It was reserved for the Missouri to resolve this doubt, by exhibiting both at once in the greatest magnificence.

From the falls the direction of their course was almost due south, inclining a little to the east. About 60 geographical miles from the falls, the river emerges from the first ridge of the Rocky Mountains, or, as our travellers call them, the Gates of those mountains. This pass is in lat. 46 deg. 46 min. 50 sec. The rocks are said to be a black granite, that is, of green-stone or basalt. These rocks approached the river on both sides, so as to form a most sublime and extraordinary spectacle, as for more than five miles they rise perpendicularly from the water's edge nearly to the height of 1200 feet. Nothing can be more tremendous than the frowning darkness of these rocks, which project over the river, and seem to threaten you with destruction. Above the gates the perpendicular rocks cease, the hills retire from the river, and the valleys suddenly widen to a considerable extent; and here there can be little doubt that we have the remains of a second lake.

The three branches just mentioned, were called by our travellers after three of the most distinguished of the American statesmen. That on the south-west, which was the most considerable, they called the Jefferson; the middle branch, the Maddison; and the easternmost, the Gallatin. The forks are in lat. 45 deg. 24 min. 8 sec. After making observations for the longitude, with which, however, they have not favoured us, they determined to ascend the

Jefferson, as that which was most likely to suit their purpose, of reaching, by the nearest route across the mountains, some of the smaller branches which join the Columbia, and discharge their waters into the Pacific Ocean.

The party advanced along the Jefferson, and have marked the length of their voyage by the name they gave to a small island, *3000-Mile Island*; such being its distance from the mouth of the Missouri, reckoning by the course of the river. They were still upon the banks of a stream, which they knew to be the continuation of the Jefferson, or the Missouri, which was now reduced to a breadth that one could step over. 'One of the men,' says Captain Lewis, 'in a fit of enthusiasm, setting one foot on each side of the stream, thanked God, that he had lived to bestride the Missouri;—a very natural expression of the sentiment which must be uppermost in the mind of a man who, for a distance of 3000 miles, had been struggling against the force of the powerful and impetuous river, which was now so completely subdued. From the foot of a neighbouring mountain issues the remotest water of the Missouri.'

Captain Lewis having fallen in with a troop of nearly 60 mounted warriors, he endeavoured to persuade them to accompany him towards the sources of the Missouri, where he expected to meet his companions from whom he had separated. The chief, and a number of the rest, agreed to go with him, when an accident happened, very characteristic of the condition of the savage life. Captain Lewis had sent some of his hunters in quest of game, considerably a-head of the party, as both the Indians and his own people were very much in want of food. As he was proceeding with the Indians along the plain on horseback, an Indian, who had been dispatched by the chief at the same time that the hunters had been sent out by Captain Lewis, probably with the view of watching the former, was seen riding towards them at full speed. On coming up, he spoke a few words, when the troop dashed forward as fast as their horses could carry them. Captain Lewis, astonished at this movement, was borne along for nearly a mile before he learned that all this hurry was occasioned by the spy having announced, that one of the white men had killed a deer. This was the joyful intelligence that had occasioned all this confusion; and when they reached the place where the inter-

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