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The Excursion of Members of the British Association from Montreal to the Rocky Mountains,

September, 1884.

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SPECIAL ARTIST OF THE "GRAPHIC" WITH THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION
IN CANADA.

Read before the Society, March 3rd, 1887.

NOTE.—The wood-engravings accompanying this paper are added by the courteous permission of the proprietors of the *Graphic*, through Mr. Carmichael Thomas.

In illustration of the paper, a collection of minerals, maps, and publications was kindly lent by Mr. Archer Baker, of Liverpool. A small herbarium of Canadian plants, kindly named by Prof. John Macoun, M.A., of Ottawa, and a series of sketches by the writer, also photographs by Mr. R. G. Brooks, of St. Helens, and Mr. E. W. Sollas, of London, were exhibited.

ON the afternoon of the first of September, 1884, Colonel Crawford, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the British Association in Montreal, whose energies, with those of his colleague Mr. Watts, were ever acting for the welfare of the Members visiting that city, handed me a slip of paper, saying, "Take that to the Agent and he will hand you your ticket for the Rocky Mountains Special Excursion Train." Among many favours, this was the greatest vouchsafed to Members of the Association during their visit to Canada, the trip being planned on a scale almost unexampled even among the "big things" of the Western world.

Breathlessly I sought the Agent and became the proud possessor of a multiple ticket of about a yard long, divided into many coupon segments by lines of perforations, and reminding a naturalist of a lengthy portion of some new specimen of *Tenia*. Extraordinary as the dimensions of the ticket were, it was not upon them my mind's eye dwelt. To parody the "great lexicographer" at the sale of Thrale's brewery, "I was not at the receipt of a piece of perforated paper tape, but about to enter upon a period of my life filled with mental excitement, surpassing the wildest dream of the Phrenzied Poet!"—An extraordinary period, during which, while sitting or lying in comfort or even luxury, a vast panorama of twice 2,400 miles in length was unfolded before me, rugged forest, mountains of basalt, the wave-worn shores and glacier-shapen islets, and thunder-

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