

GEOGRAPHY.

SUBLIME SCENES OF THE ROCKIES AND SELKIRKS.—A prominent American, who has recently crossed the continent on the C. P. R., gives a vivid description of the grandeur and sublimity of the Rockies and Selkirks in the *Montreal Gazette*. "The experience," he writes, "exceeded our anticipations; in fact, notwithstanding our expectations had been raised very high, in no respect were we disappointed. I do not think there can elsewhere be found scenery so sublime, varied and beautiful as that which greets the traveller on the west bound train, from the entrance to the Gap, near Canmore, until darkness falls upon him at Kamloops. It ought not to be hastily included in a continuous ride, but stops should be made, say at Banff, Laggan, Field and Glacier, so as, at these points, to view the falls of the Bow river with their magnificent surroundings; the matchless colorings of Lake Louise and her consorts; the grandeur of Mount Stephen and the Pass at the western portal of which the former stands like a giant sentinel; and as a climax, the subduing effect of the great glacier. At the last named station, after two and a half hours of hard toil, I ascended Cascade Summit, and from that elevated point obtained a vision I can never forget. Before us, to the west, was a semi-circular chain of snow-clad mountains, extending probably 150 miles; and as the time was midsummer, I assume that on those resplendent crests the snow eternally rests. We had climbed to a height which enabled us to see the top of the glacier as it lay glittering against the sky, and on either hand spread out until it became merged in the adjoining peaks. Over the heads of the glacier, whose feet touched the ground a short distance from the station, and directly

behind it rose a solitary peak whose snow-clad head glistened with a whiteness exceeding that of the passing clouds, while a little to the east, the kingly form of Sir Donald towered majestically one mile and a half above the rushing stream which flows at its base. As I looked upon that grand, yet awful monarch, with his brow above the fleecy clouds, and noted the majesty and grace with which he surveyed the vast expanse of eternal snow and ice beneath him insensibly it brought to mind (and I could compare it with nothing less than) the inspired revelation of the Great White Throne. Below us on the side track, across the valley, was our car, which at the distance looked like a toy that a child trails behind him. Beyond, he could see the railroad as it wound around the loop and followed the river, the latter appearing like a winding silver thread amid the profusion of green. I can think of no more generous thing which philanthropists or educators could do, than to enable some of the tired ones who dwell in busy cities and on lonely plains, or pastors who are exhausted and lack sermon material, teachers who are brain weary, and students who are poor but ambitious, to view the splendid sights which abound on the mountain division of the C. P. R. Such opportunity would be a liberal education, enlarging the mind, expanding the sympathies, and giving to the most indifferent a vision of hope and beauty which would gladden them through life. On other lines you get glimpses of entrancing beauty, but on the Canadian Pacific you can look upon such from daylight to twilight, and thus be compensated, by their richness and abundance, for the distance you have travelled to observe them. One great advantage the