

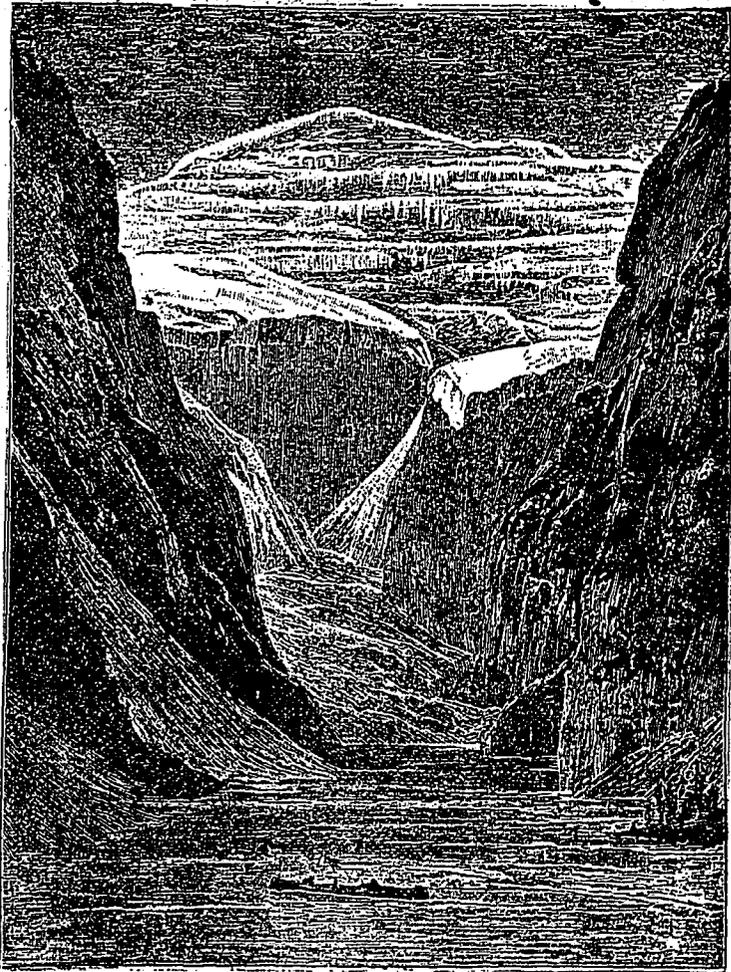


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MOUNT LEFROY AND LAKE LOUISE IN THE ROCKIES.

BITS FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

Said an old gentleman to the writer a number of years ago "I have been over pretty nearly half the world but never have I looked upon scenery grander than that of British Columbia." A few years ago this wonderland could only reveal its treasures to the adventurous few, but already, since the opening of the great Canadian Pacific Railway many of its scenes have become familiar to us all. To many, British Columbia is nothing but a sea of mountains, all known under the generic name of the "Rockies," but in reality there are four distinct ranges. To the east are the Rockies proper, which the railway crosses at Hector Pass near Mount Lefroy. West of this is the Selkirk range, which the railway can only reach by descending a steep gradient to the Columbia River and thence by the valley of Beaver Creek ascending again to the Roger's Pass. From here the line again plunges down, crosses the winding Columbia a second time, ascends a third range, the Gold range, and leaving this crosses the great valley watered by the Fraser and its tributaries, which divides the Gold from the Coast range or Cascades.

These mountain ranges are snow-capped all the year round and their valleys are filled with vast glaciers from which are fed the mighty mountain torrents, and their slopes are covered with dense forests of cedar and pine.

One of the latest explorers in this region is the Rev. W. Spotswood Green, who a short time ago, in a paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, illustrated by stereopticon views, described his recent explorations among these western Alps. With his friend the Rev. H. Swanzy he established his headquarters at the Glacier House, built by the Canadian Pacific Railway near Roger's Pass, and from thence made excursions here and there through districts which had never before been described in detail.

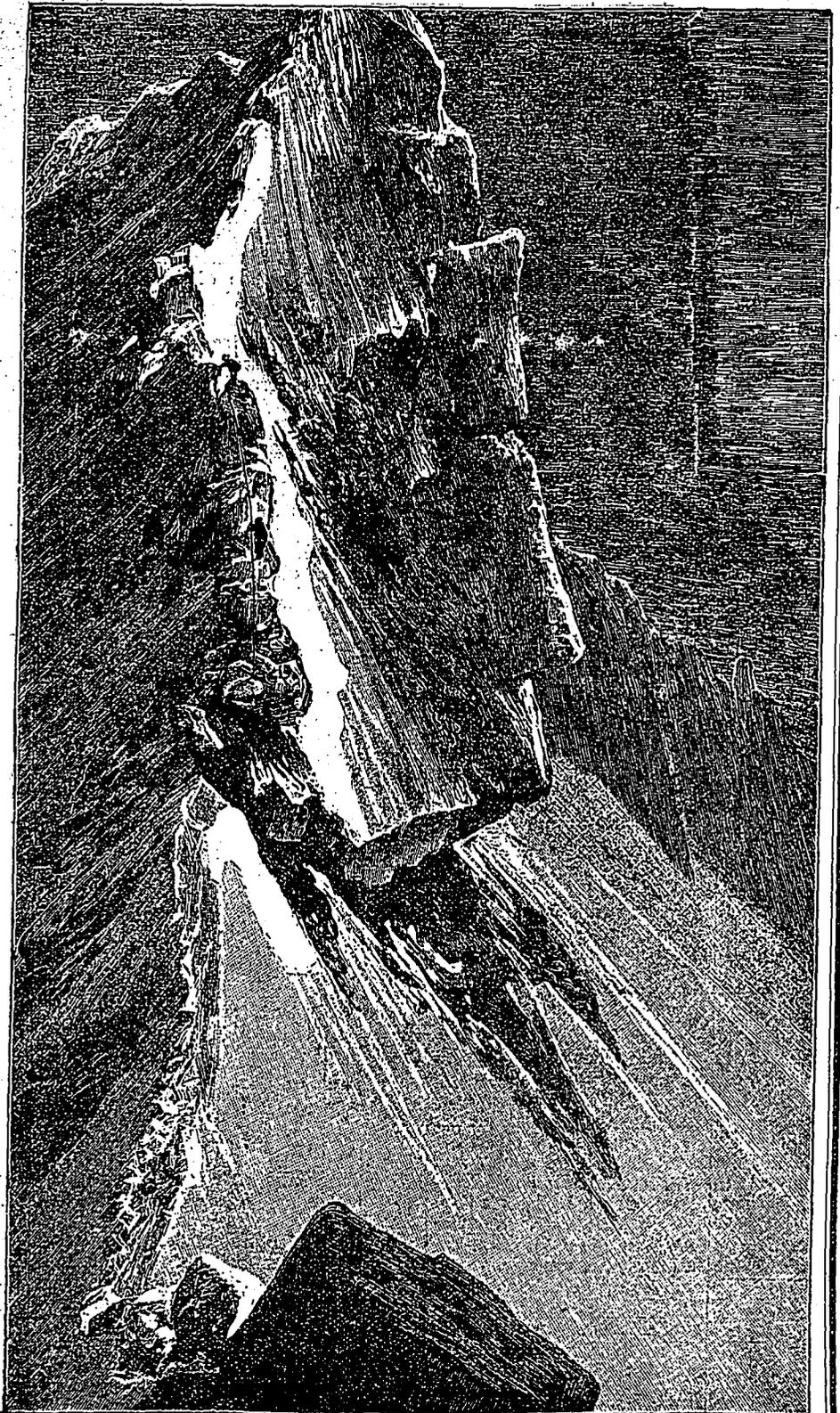
Immediately above Glacier House, a fine peak, Mount Sir Donald towers skyward to over 10,000 feet. The side facing the railway presents one huge, smooth precipice. The peak dominating the region surveyed by Mr. Green, and called by him Mount Bonney, rises 10,622 ft. from a great bed of glacier. To approach it it was necessary to carry a camp through almost impenetrable forest to the foot of these glaciers. After one long day from his camp, spent in exploring a route, followed by a day's rest, the ascent commenced at 3.30 a.m. In twelve hours the summit was reached, but ere the camp could be regained dark night overtook the two travellers, and stumbling over fallen timber in

pitchy darkness was an experience not to be envied. Our engraving, which we copy from the London Graphic, give some idea of the difficulty of part of the descent. The snow where they went up was soft and powdery and the rock beneath was rotten shale. But in attempting to avoid this particular "tooth" in coming down they succeeded only in starting an avalanche and were obliged to return by the same route, lowering their ice axes by the rope, fastening the rope to a spur of rock and then descending by its aid.

Some of the valleys have in all probability never before been trodden by the foot of a white man. The mountain goats were so wild that they knew no fear and one even ventured right into their camp.

On one occasion while leading a pack horse through one of the snow sheds, with which the railway for many miles through the Selkirks has to be protected, they were overtaken by a train and it was with the greatest difficulty that they kept the animal from being run over.

The upper cut gives one view on Lake Louise in the Rockies near where the railway crosses and shows a scene of grandeur that reaches the sublime.



MOUNT BONNEY.

15th 89
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