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hundred feet." At Cypress Hills, east of the Rocky Mountains, these "shingle beds" were observed at an altitude of three thousand eight hundred feet above the sea. This is, however, an older formation than the river terraces. I observed similar "terraces" to those on the Nisqually plains at Navada, on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, at an altitude of more than three thousand feet above the sea, and from two hundred to three hundred feet in thickness. It was curious to see the gold-seekers washing these great cliffs of shingle away by the "hydraulic method" of "washing for gold." pursuit of the hidden treasure, the sharpest eye, if assisted even by a powerful lens, is powerless to discover it, so minute are the particles scattered through this mountain of fragments, broken from adjacent and far away rocks; the miner simply does rapidly, by delivering jets of water, under high pressure, directly against the cliff from metal nozzles, as used in our fire-engines, what frost, rain, and snow have been carrying on slowly, though surely, for ages: the latter three transport the produce of their erosive labour down the streams, to be whirled eventually by the eddying water into some hole, crack, or rocky receptacle, to be there left for man to discover, collected and hoarded, so to speak, in a bank of deposit of the Creator's own contriving. The gold-washer, on the other hand, does his work rapidly; the result of minutes may represent centuries when compared with the destruction carried on by natural agencies. He could not afford to wait until the materials washed out settled again in obedience to their respective specific gravities; but to avoid this, the washer constructs miles of wooden troughs, or "flumes," through which pours a swift stream of water, carrying along with it all the shingle syringed down by the nozzles. At short distances from each other, extending along the entire length of the "flume," "police" are stationed, or, in other words, there are small deposits of mercury, called riffles, whose duty it is to seize upon all the golden fugitives, be they large or diminutive, and to hold them prisoners until fire eventually volatilizes the gaoler and sets the captive free, for man to fashion and use as he deems best.

On the great Columbian desert—on the Spokan plain, and along the bases of the Galton mountains, past which the Kootanie river finds its way through the Tobacco plains—on Vancouver Island, at Nainimo, and again in the "Flathead" country on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains, where the "Flathead" Indians rear their immense herds of horses—similar terraces, shingly plains, and dry prairies prevail.

I ride up on some of these terraces we are passing along by; the surface is quite clear of timber, but clothed with "bunch grass," a festuca remarkable for growing in tufts or bunches, differing entirely from the famed "buffalo grass" found on the plains east of the Rocky Mountains, which is a chondroxium. No underbrush is to be seen anywhere, and there is not a single obstacle to impede one from galloping