

party under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, was endeavouring to reach the defile of the Colorado River, which was, at the beginning of a day's march, not many miles distant, as was supposed. Filling their canteens from the water of the gorge where they had camped, the five men set out, hoping to drink of the Colorado that night! It soon became evident that the distance was deceiving; gaining eminence after eminence, the Grand Canyon seemed as far away as at first, and no promise of water in all the weary stretch. A consultation was held. It was agreed that the defile left in the morning was their last chance of water, and that lay sixteen miles behind them, and the Colorado many more ahead. Mr. Howell and another irrepressible determined to push on, if it took all summer, while the others turned back to "the last chance," as they expressed it. And to this day that canyon is known and named on the maps as "Last Chance Canyon," formed by a junction of the Grand and Green. The Grand River has its source in the Rocky Mountains. The Green River rises in the Wind River Mountains. Both have sources in alpine lakes, fed by melting snows. Thousands of these picturesque lakes, with deep, cool, emerald waters, are embosomed among the crags of the Rocky Mountains. These streams, born in the gloomy solitudes of the mountain regions, have a strange eventful history as they pass down through gorges, tumbling in cascades and cataracts, until they reach the hot, arid plains of the Lower Colorado, where the waters, that were so clear above, empty as turbid floods into the Gulf of California. Including the Green River, which is really the upper continuation of the Colorado, the whole length of the stream is about two thousand miles. The plateau is divided into two distinct portions. The lower third is but a little above the level of the sea, though here and there ranges of mountains rise to an altitude of from two to six thousand feet. The upper two-thirds lies from four to eight thousand feet above the sea. This high region, on the north, east, and west, is set with ranges of snow-clad mountains, attaining an altitude varying from eight to fourteen thousand feet. All winter long, on its mountain-crested rim, snow falls, filling the gorges, half burying the forests, and covering the crags and peaks with a mantle "woven by the wind from the waves of the sea." When summer comes, this snow melts, and tumbles down the mountain sides in millions of