

men took some time to arrange themselves in their places ; but in a little while all seemed right, and we were drifting with great velocity towards the verge of the Cascades' Rapid ; and, when it was too late to stop, we found that half the men were quite drunk, and the steersman the worst of all the party ; so we were obliged to snatch the oars from these men and do as well as we could for ourselves ; and I never saw a more cowardly set of rascals than the boatmen. They absolutely cried till they roared, and were as helpless as a parcel of children. In the mean time we had got into the middle of the torrent, which was sufficiently ill-treating us ; but, by pulling hard and holding water, we kept the boat's head right so as to get through the Rapid at the expense of a good wetting. But we had wandered altogether out of our course, and had fairly lost our way upon the river, which became extremely wide, and divided by the intervening land into several channels : and thus we pulled on at a venture till it grew