

GEOGRAPHY.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY LINE.
—Since operations commenced last October, 130 miles of track have been laid, thus extending the line west to Cut Bank, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. At present a large force of men are at work erecting an immense trestle bridge to span the River Cut Bank. This bridge will be 1,246 feet long, 145 feet high and will require for its erection 1,350,000 feet of timber. It will be completed in about two weeks more, and will, I think, be the largest structure of its kind on the continent. The country through here is rolling prairie, formerly the home of the buffalo, the quondam existence of which animal, and that too in large herds, is evidenced by the vast quantities of bleached bones which strew the plains. This State is now the paradise of the ranchman and cow-boy. Immense herds of cattle may be seen passing here on their way to Chinook, from which point they are shipped to the markets of the East. There is a large number of Indians in this vicinity, mostly of the Cree tribe, renegades from Canada during the recent Riel rebellion. A little farther west we enter the Stoney and Flathead reservations. Fort Assiniboine, seven miles west of here, is the military headquarters for the North-West country. After passing the summit of the Rockies we strike the Flathead country, a region that is rich in magnificent timber and well adapted also for agricultural pursuits. The trees of that land rise tall and straight, in many cases to two hundred feet in height, not a limb less than seventy-five feet from the ground. In fact they are regular giants of the forest.
—*From a Correspondent at Havre, Montana, U.S.A.*

THE PLANET MERCURY.—Schiaparelli, the Italian astronomer, who has been studying Mercury says that instead of turning on its axis once in twenty-four hours it only turns once during a revolution around the sun. In other words it always presents the same face to the sun in the same manner as our moon always presents the same face to the earth. He has found streaks on the planet running in different directions; in one place they are shaped like a figure 5. There are evidences of an atmosphere and watery vapour floating in it, and Schiaparelli believes he has seen clouds there. It has generally been thought that Mercury was not inhabited, but owing to the presence of water and air we cannot positively affirm the absence of life. If one lived on the sunward side of the globe we should have perpetual day and of course on the other side perpetual night; but it has a large libration and longitude as it journeys around the sun, and the result of this is to produce the same effect as if it rocked to and fro on its axis to the extent of 24° on each side of the meridian line. Consequently there are regions along the eastern and western edges of the sunward side of the planet that are alternately brought into sunshine and plunged back into darkness.—*The School Journal.*

A RIVER THAT FLOWS INLAND.—There is an interesting instance of water flowing inland from the sea. It is found on the island of Cephalonia, in the Ionian sea, west of Greece. The phenomenon occurs on the south-west side of the island near the small town and port of Argostoli. Two streams flow at a short distance