

mountain is that of a great pyramid. The summit consists of a central peak, flanked by two lower and smaller ones, both as nearly as possible of the same size and shape. Mr. A. D. Richardson, the well-known correspondent of the 'New York Tribune' in former years, speaking of the scenery of Puget Sound, says: 'Some of the boldest mountains of the continent are here visible—Baker, Adams, St. Helens, and, more than any or all others, Mount Rainier, triple-pointed and robed in snow. Shasta is grand; Hood is grander; but, from this stand-point, Rainier is monarch of all—the Mont Blanc of this coast.*' It is distant about seventy-five miles from the shores of Puget Sound, and may be approached either from Steilacoom or Olympia. In 1869 I proposed to General Stevens of Olympia, formerly of the United States army, to attempt the ascent of this mountain. He was unable to go with me, but next year announced his willingness to undertake the journey. Mr. Van Trump, also of Olympia, joined us, but an accident which befel me when near the base of the mountain prevented my attempting the ascent, which General Stevens and Mr. Van Trump successfully accomplished, being the first on record. The base of the mountain is at least six days' journey from Olympia, the capital of Washington Territory. For the first thirty miles there is a good waggon road. The remainder of the journey is by a trail cut through the forests and leading to the Cowlitz Pass. It was originally made several years before my visit by two settlers, for the purpose of prospecting on the mountain, but has hardly ever been used since, so that at the time of our journey it was overgrown, and in many parts difficult to trace. We were, however, fortunate in being accompanied by Mr. Longmire, one of the settlers above alluded to. The general course of the journey follows the Nisqually River, which heads in a glacier on the south-western side of the mountain, the same which was examined by Lieutenant, now General, A. V. Kautz, as mentioned in the first article. General Stevens informed me that they did not meet with any special difficulties on their route for about the first five miles, or two-thirds of the way, being a gentle slope. But the latter portion is steep. They were just 10½ hrs. in making the ascent, during all which time, being in excellent training, they worked hard, and were not obliged to retrace a single step. The aspect of the summit has been already described in the first article.

Mount St. Helens was named by Vancouver after His

* 'Our New States and Territories.'

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