

the massive walls on each side of the river rising tier after tier upon the ones below, for hundreds of feet.

At Shoshone Falls in Idaho, this columnar structure presents a wall a thousand feet high, and nearly six miles in length. The valley of the Willamette river between the Coast and Cascade ranges, fifty miles in width and extending far to the south, is the garden of Oregon. A crop of wheat, oats, flax, and potatoes, can confidently be expected if planted with any care, and apples, pears and cherries are as prolific and of as fine a quality as can be found in any state on the continent.

Indeed, the soil from lava is well known to be fertile and adapted to fruit culture. The vineyards around Mt. Vesuvius and Mt. Ætna are fruitful yet, after the cropping of a thousand years, and the soil of Oregon is not an exception.

The vapors arising from the Pacific are precipitated by the lofty range of the Cascades so freely that, in most seasons, rains fall as frequently as in England, and the residents of Willamette valley are hence, by way of derision and envy, called "Web-feet" by the people east of this range,—by envy, because the clouds, squeezed of their moisture, by the cold peaks of the mountains on the west, are rainless to them.

Nearly the whole of the State has a rich soil, but the western third only is favored with moisture enough to render crops certain without irrigation, and this must be confined to narrow valleys.

The Columbia, called in Thanatopsis the Oregon, drains an immense territory, having its main sources in British Columbia and in the Yellowstone National park. Its chief tributaries are the Spokane, Snake, John Day, Deschutes and the Willamette. Much the larger part of the 175,000 people in the State are to be found along the valleys of these rivers. They are cosmopolitan, tracing their origin and nationality to Spain,