

THE EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, July 20, 1872.

A TOUR THROUGH THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO.

GOLD DIGGINGS OF THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO AT MOUTH OF KANAB WASH, May 5.—About the 1st of January last Major Powell accompanied by John R. Stewart of Kanab, Capt. Dodd formerly of the Utah agency, and G. W. Riley, a Snake river miner, left Kanab to discover a pass into the river whereby supplies might be sent to the expedition whittles on its downward trip during the coming summer. They found their way in by following the Kanab Wash through a deep canyon very narrow—in some places not over fifty feet wide, with a vertical overhanging wall twenty to twenty-eight hundred feet high—almost closing in at the top in some places, and turning the brightest day into twilight, filling the beholder with a sense of wonder at the marvellous works of nature.

Down the canyon flows a beautiful stream of clear cold water, obstructed in some places by a pile of huge boulders through which it goes dashing and foaming, forming cataracts and falls too wonderful and grand to be described. The entrance of this canyon to the Colorado territory is about 75 miles distant from Kanab. By considerable hard work a good trail has at length been made, not, however, until several horses have fallen over cliffs at different points, smashing up things generally. While down here Riley discovered gold. He returned in a few weeks with an outfit, accompanied by several others, and has been at work ever since. Of course there was soon great excitement in Utah, and large parties of miners and saints were suffering badly with the gold fever, and soon on their way to the new Eldorado. Many, however, have been doomed to bitter disappointment, as the gold is of that quality known as float or flour gold, which is impossible to save without the use of cyanide, and a gold and quicksilver for the rockers. Many who thought themselves well supplied found their material of an inferior quality, and the process of saving it a thing a humbug. Others are saving it, however, and there are reports from some of the camps that they are taking out from six ounces and a half to two ounces per day to the man. My faith in the ultimate success of the Colorado gold mine is not very strong.

I am here on a photographing tour, and am making stereoscopic views of as grand and unusual sights as the heart could desire. I left the exploring expedition about three months ago. On their arrival at the mouth of the Paria river last October their work on the river would be at a standstill until the middle of the following January. I therefore procured an outfit for prospecting and photographing and with pack animals I am prepared to visit the most interesting scenery of the country, make views, and also look out for the filthy lucre. The scenery here on the river is very fine, the vertical walls near the river being from three to four thousand feet. Above these are plateaus, benches, making it over a mile high from the water to the top of the canyon walls. After doing what I can here in the canyon I intend making a trip on the Plateau of Buckskin Mountain, to have a look down from above. Yesterday I returned to camp from a trip ten miles up the river, and made a great deal better time coming down than I did going up. Riley and several others, having been up the river prospecting, reported a marvelous fall about ten miles above. As I could not leave the canyon without seeing everything worthy of note, I procured a supply for about a dozen negatives, and with one assistant and four days' rations, started out last Thursday, the 15th, and arrived at Riley's camp, about five miles below the fall, late in the afternoon, after a hard day's climb over marble and limestone boulders and around cliffs and points of rocks, about used up, and feeling that if ever I returned to the mouth of Kanab Wash I would go by water or sink.

The falls are caused by a small stream of water coming in from the Buckskin Mountains, and are fed by springs. The cliff through which it comes is about 400 feet high, but the stream, having worn a narrow crevice down into the rock, about 100 feet from the top, the falls 250 feet and form a basin or alcove at the foot of the cliff, from thence it finds its way into the bottom of the Colorado, 200 yards away over several beautiful little falls from six to ten feet high. The walls of the cliff around the cascade are covered with fern, moss and wild vines. I used up all my money on the first day and succeeded in making a dozen fine negatives. Not being half satisfied, I concluded to return for more material and provisions, determining, however, to take a trip of a few days up the river with Riley before starting down. The next morning, with two days' supply of bread and dried beef, we started out, and, remembering the first day, we went to the side of the cliff for about a mile, when we found it necessary to ascend to get around a prominent rock that seemed suspended over the river. After ascending to the summit of the rock, and looking down at the narrow little canyon below, and seeing how long and dark it was, and how close the walls were to each other, we were so much awed and terrified, we beheld a valley about two miles in circumference, with a stream of clear water fed by over a hundred living springs, and looking down at it. Over a thousand cottonwood trees were growing in the bottom, causing it to look like a flourishing orchard. The ground, covered by a green carpet of grass knee deep, was a feast to our weary eyes, and as we longed to descend, we looked up upon barren rocks above. We involuntarily and with one accord named it Surprise Valley. It was impossible to pass such a paradise and not partake of its delights, so, descending the side of the mountain, we were soon seated in the shade of a clump of cottonwood trees on the bank of a clear and cold stream of water as fine as crystal and so cold as to sting the feet. Content to spend the remainder of the day in rest and the exploration of our little paradise. This is emphatically a mountain basin, and the only one of the kind in the whole of the territory. The lower or narrow crevice is only three or four feet wide, but from 50 to 100 feet deep. Down this the stream plunges, making many cascades and waterfalls, as it were, of whose presence we are only made aware by the music of the falling waters. Immediately at the outlet of the valley are standing several trees, which seem to spring from the very rocks. Their roots are washed by the stream, and their trunks are covered with moss and fern. They nearly hide the stream from view, and a casual observer might think that the water sank into the ground. I expect to return and spend several days making views of this enchanting spot before leaving the river.

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1872.

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Passengers will please purchase their tickets at the depot. Fifty cents additional will be charged when the fare is collected on the train.

For all information concerning Freight or Passengers apply to

M. H. DAVIS, Ticket and Freight Agent.

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