The view from these mountains was magnificent. On reaching an open spot in our descent we saw the Columbia just beneath us, flowing through a vast cañon at its great bend. To the east stretched the central basaltic plateau, rising towards the north into high and broken tables, beyond which appeared the gaps of the Okinakaine: while to the west and north west the craggy sierra of the Cascades reared itself above the line of forest into the limits of perpetual snow. The character of this range changes materially with its geological formation, naked and precipitous ridges surmounted with sharp peaks rising singly or in groups, some of which seem to be the skeletons of mountains, distinguishing the granitic from the tame features of the basaltic region. The country on the Columbia from this point exhibits a conspicuous change.

On the left bank basalt continues to the Spokane river, being undulated according to Lieut. Wilkes [illegible] granite, and on the right bank it occurs intustratified with conglomerate at the foot of the mountains, but ceases entirely a few miles above. How far down the river it continues we had no opportunity of noticing but presumed that it ceased at the Priests Rapids as it is absent for some distance above the mouth of the Yakama where the banks through high consist of sand and boulders only.

A little below the mouth of the Pisquouse the

0493