Beside the terraces which line the valley, another class not characterized by the same straight lines, but arranged in amphitheatres, or otherwise conforming to the make of the elevations against which they rest, appear on the summits of the ranges dividing different branches of the Columbia. In crossing from Fort Okanagan to the Methow river, and again from the Okinakane Lake to Fort Colville, such terraces were noticed at heights too great to be supposed them to have been deposited except at a period when the elevation of these mountains was in its earliest stage. As regards the others however they bear every mark of a much later date.

As the route of the expedition met the Columbia above the lower obstructions through which it has forced its way, the point of the first barrier cannot be given with certainty. It is supposed to have been about the Priests Rapids, and another very probably intervened between that and the Dalles. Upon this supposition the Grand Coulée, which is said not to have been a continuous channel, may have been an arm or a strait, cutting off an island or peninsula. Numerous other coulées, which once separated islands, abound among these mountains, the terraced banks remaining at each end toward the river, while the intermediate level now constitutes an elevated valley or "land strait". Such was the pass by which the expedition passed from the Columbia to Lake ~~Columbia~~ Chelaun. The

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