Lines of low buttes are also observable in places. Quite a number of small lakes are scattered over this field, many of which appear to have been craters. On the line pursued by the expedition a series of three continued for half a day journey, apparently connected by a crevasse. They were of circular shape and surrounded by walls of basalt. The water contained in them was generally saline and nauseous.

Approaching the Snake River the plains become more broken, though the general level is preserved, and the beds of the streams deepen as they descend. The basalt exhibits the utmost different forms, and in structure ranges through every variety from scoriaceous to compact. In the cañon of the Palouse the strata were often curved, the individual columns retaining their perpendicularity to the base, radiated from or towards it according to circumstance. The lowest stratum in several places exhibited the same appearance of separation into columns, separated by horizontal cleavage into plates resembling stratification, as those previously mentioned in the A-tah-nam-i valley. The next above it was sometimes in massive blocks, constituting a kind of compound columns, while the superior ones were cylinders of pentagonal or hexagonal forms and curved at the top. Many of the larger blocks separate with conchoidal faces. We noticed on these plains

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