

PETRIIFIED BONES.

EIGHTY ACRES OF FOSSIL REMAINS NEAR SILVER LAKE, OREGON.

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SILVER LAKE, Oregon, May 8, 1877.

For several months past we have heard some of the stock men of this valley speak of a bone-yard some 30 miles east of here, on the edge of the desert. Rufus Dillurd, Jack Parton and Andrew Foster, stockmen, came in from there last Monday, and brought a large quantity of teeth, and some large bones. These bones are found in low volcanic sand ridges and alkali flats, and extend over a distance of four or five miles in length and about one mile in width. The bones can be found on top of the earth and sticking up through the drifting sand by hundreds and thousands, from the size of a mouse upwards. My informants have no knowledge of what lies buried beneath the sand and alkali flats, and all the specimens were taken from the top of the ground. They say there is a small alkali pond at the edge of the main deposit of the petrified bones, and over an area of about 80 acres these large bones lie on the ground. The largest bone measures 30 inches in length, with no sign of the knuckle on either end, and from the shape of the ends, we judge, must have been 12 or 14 inches longer. It is perfectly straight and nearly round in the middle. The circumference of the large end is 16 inches, and the smaller is $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The next one is slightly curved and rather flat, and has two knuckles on the upper end. We judge it to be in length, straight across from tip to tip, 24 inches; around the curve 28 inches. This bone is as perfect as it ever was, and it is petrified. Now comes the nicest fossil of the whole, a part of the under jaw-bone, 13 inches long, 6 inches wide at the widest end and 4 inches at the other. One side of the bone has been split off and shows six perfect teeth, firmly set in the jaw and beautifully petrified. They measure across $1\frac{1}{4}$ by 1 inch. There is another tooth, though a jaw-tooth, that measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches one way, that has been split open; I could not get the size the other way. It is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Now comes one of the strangest of this strange bone deposit. Vast quantities of stone arrow-heads, such as were used by Indians, are found through these bones. It looks as though these animals were surrounded by water, or, perhaps, got poisoned by the water, and perished by thousands; then some chemical properties in the water or ground petrified them. There are thousands of bones that are not petrified.

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