

ARIZONA AS IT IS;

OR,

THE COMING COUNTRY.

COMPILED FROM

NOTES OF TRAVEL DURING THE YEARS  
1874, 1875, AND 1876.

BY

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## PREFACE.

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WHEN the author entered Arizona, in 1874, he had little thought of being able to gather material for a work on the country. Sick, weak, and debilitated, caused by long years of suffering from bronchial and pulmonary diseases, his greatest hope was to write up descriptive articles of the country for the Press in different sections of the Union. In a few months, the mild, healthful, and pure climate had worked a radical change, giving promise of restored health, and with this change, coupled with the request and solicitation of hundreds of Arizona's best citizens, came the desire to write up in book form whatever might be gathered by a thorough exploration of the Territory. In addition to copies of over five hundred communications published by different newspapers in widely different sections of the United States, a full record was kept day by day of everything seen and learned during his long explorations, a brief account of which is given in these pages. The sole object of the author has been to write a

truthful and accurate description of the Territory as it now is, and to give to the public reliable information concerning it. With the wish that this work, though far from complete, may contribute to the development and future prosperity of Arizona, and with unbounded confidence in the future of that great country, it is given to the public, with the hope that it may be read with care and criticised with forbearance.

### THE AUTHOR.

## TESTIMONIAL.

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**D**URING the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, Col. **H. C. Hodge** has made a thorough tour and exploration of Arizona. His articles on the country, descriptive of its mineral, agricultural, grazing, and other resources, and of its climate, scenery, and prehistoric ruins, published in different sections of the Union, have been truthful, and more full and complete than any heretofore given the public, and believing him to be an honest, truthful, and reliable gentleman, we commend him and his writings and lectures to the people of the United States, with the assurance that full confidence may be given to his reports on Arizona.

ARIZONA, *October, 1876.*

(Signed.) **A. P. K. SAFFORD**, Governor **A. T.**  
**H. S. STEVENS**, Delegate in Congress from **A. T.**  
**AUGUST V. KAUTZ**, Commanding Military Department of **A. T.**  
**F. H. GOODWIN**, United States Marshal of **A. T.**  
**J. S. VOSBURG**, Adjutant General of **A. T.**  
**COLES BASHFORD**, late Secretary of **A. T.**





## CHAPTER VI.

### RIVERS OF ARIZONA : SIZE, EXTENT, ETC.

**T**HE principal rivers of Arizona are the Colorado, Gila, Salt, Chiquito Colorado, or Little Colorado, Verde, Bill Williams, San Pedro, Santa Cruz, White, Black, and some others of lesser note, which are mostly branches of the main rivers. Many of the mountain streams, which in Arizona are called rivers, would in most other parts of the United States be called creeks, brooks, or rivulets.

The great Colorado River is formed by the Green and Grand rivers, and other streams far to the north. The Grand River rises in Colorado, in the western declivities of the Rocky Mountains, and runs a south-westerly course to its junction with the Green. The Green rises far up in Wyoming, near Fremont's Peak, and runs a southerly course to where it unites with the Grand, in Utah, from which point of union it is called the Colorado. The Colorado is navigable for steamers of four hundred tons at all seasons of the year, as far as Hardyville, five hundred and thirteen miles above its mouth, and steamers have been as far

up as Callville, six hundred and forty-one miles from the Gulf of California. From its mouth to the foot of the Grand Cañon, a distance of seven hundred miles, the river at low water has an average width of about six hundred feet, and a depth of five to twenty feet. From the extreme head waters of its upper branches, the Colorado River has a total length including its windings of some three thousand miles, and it is the largest and longest river that enters the Pacific Ocean, south of the Sacramento River, on the American continent. The Colorado River region presents some of the grandest scenery on the globe. For nearly three hundred miles, in Northern Arizona, its waters, during the untold ages of the past, have worn through great mountain chains, and mountain plateaus, cutting out for itself a channel many hundreds and thousands of feet deep in the hard granite, slate, porphyry, sandstone, limestone, and volcanic rocks, thus forming the Grand Cañon of the Colorado, the grandest cañon the eye of man ever saw. This cañon can in no way be fully explored, except by entering it with boats from its upper part in Utah, as Lieutenant Powell and party did, in 1869; and then it is a Herculean task, requiring a large degree of energy, perseverance, and indomitable courage. For a full description of this wonderful cañon, the reader is referred to Major Powell's reports of his expedition down the river, all of which will be found exceedingly

interesting in its description of the scenery, and of hair-breadth escapes from dangers and death, which exceed in interest the wildest imaginations of the most fertile brain. Many lateral cañons enter the main one, in its long and tortuous course, all of exceeding interest to the admirers of the grand and sublime in nature. Between the Grand Cañon, where it opens out from its rocky inclosure, down to Yuma, there are several other deep, abysmal cañons, from five to twenty miles long, through which the great volume of waters of the Colorado, collected from a thousand mountain streams, rush with whirlpool velocity, bearing onward, ever onward, in its mass of waters, a thick sediment of alluvium, which is deposited along its banks, and in the upper portion of the Gulf of California, adding year after year large tracts of rich alluvial land to the tens of thousands of acres heretofore deposited by the river in the long eras of the past.

The Gila River, the largest tributary of the Colorado, rises far to the east in New Mexico to the northeast of Silver City, pursues a general westerly course, enters Arizona near the rich Clifton Copper Mines, passing through the beautiful Pueblo Viejo Valley, the San Carlos Indian Agency, and the mountains below, and emerging into the lower, or great Gila Valley, some twelve miles above Florence, the county town of Pinal County, and thence west for nearly

three hundred miles to its junction with the Colorado at Yuma. The total length of the Gila, including its many windings, is fully six hundred and fifty miles. For four hundred miles, at low water, the Gila has an average width of about one hundred feet, and a depth of one to two feet.

Salt River rises well up towards the eastern part of the Territory, in the White Mountains, its head waters being the White and Black rivers. It has numerous large branches, coming in mostly from the north, draining the country far to the north, including the Tonto Basin, the Sierra Ancha, White, San Francisco, and other mountains. Its course is west and southwest, and it unites with the Gila below Phoenix some thirty miles. This river was named the "Rio Salido," by the early Spanish and Jesuit explorers, on account of its waters being highly impregnated with salt, which is easily noticed at low water. This is caused by a heavy salt formation through which the river passes about one hundred miles above Phoenix. At low water it is a clear, beautiful stream, having an average width of two hundred feet for a distance of one hundred miles above its junction with the Gila, and a depth of two feet or more.

The Verde River is one of the largest northern branches of Salt River, its upper branches rising at different points to the east, north, and northwest

Arizona for many years, and several minor ones, and horseback post routes.

The Southern Pacific Mail Line, owned by Messrs. Kerens & Mitchell, extends from San Diego, on the Pacific Ocean, to Mesilla, New Mexico, on the Rio Grande River, a distance of 850 miles, at which point it makes connections with other lines running to different cities and railroads east.

This great stage line enters Arizona on the west, at Yuma, and on the east at the Steins Peak Mountains, fifteen miles east from Apache Pass. It is a tri-weekly route, and is made in eight days from San Diego to Mesilla. The line is well stocked with horses, Concord coaches, and closed buckboard carriages. Good Concord coaches are run over most of the route.

The coaches are run promptly on the schedule time prescribed by the Government. The proprietors, superintendents, and employees, on the route, are well informed, affable, and attentive to every duty, and, as a consequence, travel and transportation over the route has much increased the past two years. It is a very popular route, and well patronized.

The California and Arizona Stage Line is the other great stage line of Arizona. The line now connects with the Southern Pacific Railroad at Indian Wells, runs thence to Ehrenburg on the Colorado River, thence to Wickenburg, from whence the main line

runs to Prescott and intermediate stations, and a branch line to Phoenix and Florence, where it intersects the Southern Pacific Mail line before mentioned. Both the main and branch lines are tri-weekly. An effort is now being made to make the main line from Prescott to the railroad a daily route, with prospects of success.

Another route, run by the California and Arizona Stage Company, is a weekly, from Prescott via Mineral Park and Cerbat to Hardyville, on the Colorado River. Petitions have been forwarded to increase this to a tri-weekly route. The officers of the California and Arizona Stage Company are Mr. James Stewart, President, and Dr. J. H. Pierson, Secretary. Messrs. Thomas and Nichols, Superintendents, are both good men, and employ none but first class drivers.

The two stage companies above mentioned have, for many years, kept up their several lines under the greatest difficulties imaginable, and with hardly a day's interruption. During the long years of the Indian wars, their coaches were often attacked by the savage foe, coaches rifled and burned, stock killed or driven off, employees murdered, and great pecuniary damage sustained in addition to loss of life, yet, through all these difficulties and dangers, they, with indomitable will and courage, fulfilled their obligations to the government and people, kept up their several lines, and are deserving the thanks and gratitude of all in Arizona.

These two stage companies employ four hundred horses, one hundred men, and fifty coaches.

There is a weekly stage line from Tucson, running south into the Mexican state of Sonora, and thence to Guaymas on the Gulf of California.

A tri-weekly stage line runs from Phoenix to Camp McDowell, thirty-five miles. Another one runs from Phoenix to Maricopa Wells, connecting the two first described main lines — the distance is thirty miles.

A weekly stage line runs from Prescott, via the Chiquito Colorado and Camp Wingate, to Santa Fé in New Mexico. This will soon be made a tri-weekly route.

A horseback mail route is run from Camp Grant, via old Camp Goodwin and Safford, to the Clifton Copper Mines. At Camp Goodwin it is intersected by a military post rider, who takes the mail via San Carlos to Camp Apache. From Camp Apache, the military post route runs north to the Chiquito Colorado, connecting with the line from Prescott to Santa Fé.

Another horseback mail route runs from Yuma, via Castle Dome, Ehrenburg, Colorado River Reservation, Aubrey, and Camp Mohave, to Hardyville.

Another one runs from Cerbat and Mineral Park, via Stone's Ferry of the Colorado River, to Pioche, Nevada.

Another route has lately been established which