

In North America, the western flank of the Rocky Mountains sends to the Pacific the river *Oregon* or *Columbia*, and the *Rio Colorado*, which falls into the Gulf of California. From their eastern declivity descend the *Mackenzie*, which falls into the Arctic Ocean, the *Churchill*, and the *Saskatchewan*, which flows into Hudson's Bay.

The Gulf of Mexico receives the *Rio Grande del Norte*, and the muddy but majestic *Mississippi*, whose basin occupies an area of 1,226,600 miles.

[The *Mississippi*—i.e., *Miche Sepe*, "Father of Waters"—rises in the highlands of Minnesota, in lat. $47^{\circ} 10' N.$, and long. $94^{\circ} 54' W.$ Its sources consist of numerous small lakes, situated at an elevation of 1680 feet above the sea-level. It runs in a general southerly direction, with a total length—from its rise to its mouth—in lat. $29^{\circ} N.$, and long. $98^{\circ} W.$, of 2986 miles; but if we also trace the current of its principal tributary, the Missouri, of 4506 miles. It is navigable to the Falls of St. Anthony, 2200 miles; the Missouri may be ascended to a point 3950 miles distant from the Mexican river; and there are 1500 other navigable branches, of which it is only necessary to name the Red River, 340 miles; the Ohio, 2300; and the Arkansas, 700 miles.

The Mississippi forms the boundary-line of ten of the United States:—

Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and part of Minnesota, lying on the west bank;

Illinois, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Tennessee, and Mississippi, on the east bank.

It also waters the following important towns:—St. Paul, Galena, Quincy, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez, and New Orleans.

Its delta, where it pours its waters through a multiplicity of *bayous*, or channels, is 150 miles long, and occupies an area of 14,000 square miles. A great portion of the country traversed by this colossal river is a wide, grassy, alluvial plain, forming those "rolling prairies" which are so characteristic a feature of North American scenery, and which afford to innumerable herds of buffaloes and deer an apparently inexhaustible field of pasturage.

The *Missouri*, or "*Mud River*," rises in two forks, the Jefferson and Galatin, in the Rocky Mountains, lat. $45^{\circ} N.$, and long. $112^{\circ} W.$ After a northerly course of 500, and an easterly one of 1200 miles, it flows south-east to its junction with the Kansas, and then east to join the Mississippi. At high water it may be ascended as high as the Great Falls, 2540 miles from its point of confluence. Its principal tributaries are the Kansas, the Platte, the Yellowstone, and the Cheyenne. At the Great Falls it descends 357 feet in a series of imposing cascades, one of which is 87 feet high, extending over 16 miles.

The *St. Lawrence* collects the waters of five great lakes, Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, and flowing between Canada and the United States, carries its burden into the Atlantic.]