

the springs are contiguous, and situated on accessible table-lands, in such a manner that it is easy to open a communication between them by means of a canal, these points of proximity are sometimes known as *portages* (a word whose primary signification is that of a *lacuna* or blank in the navigation; the point where it becomes necessary to carry, *porter*, the boat from one place to another).

We find an instance and an illustration in the Carpathian Mountains, where the Donajec and the Poprad, two tributaries of the Vistula, well up into the daylight at no great distance from the springs of the Gran, the Hernath, and the Waag, which flow into the Theiss, the principal affluent of the Danube; it has, therefore, been proposed to construct a canal, which would afford the means of direct communication between the Baltic and the Black Sea.

The course of a stream or river is divided into three parts, which are respectively designated its upper, middle, and lower course, each presenting its individual and sufficiently distinctive characters. In the upper part, the water often dashes headlong rather than flows, between steep scarped banks which closely hem in and obstruct its channel. It thus becomes an impetuous torrent, precipitating itself furiously from rock to rock, and cleaving a passage through the gorges and sinuosities which impede its foaming waves—here running wildly in a dangerous *rapid*; there descending abruptly in a *fall* or *cascade*.

[These features of a river's advance into the lowlands have been admirably described by the poet of "The Seasons":—

" Smooth to the shelving brink, a copious flood
Rolls fair and placid, where collected all
In one impetuous torrent, down the steep
It thund'ring shoots, and shakes the country round.
At first an azure sheet it rushes broad,
Then whitening by degrees, as prone it falls,
And from the loud-resounding rocks below,
Dashed in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft
A hoary mist, and forms a ceaseless shower.
Nor even the torrid wave here finds repose,
But raging still amid the shaggy rocks,
Now flashes o'er the scattered fragments, now
Aslant the hollowed channel rapid darts,
And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
With wild infracted course and lessened roar
It gains a safer bed, and steals at last
Along the mazes of the quiet vale."]

In the Pyrenees, the torrents which we have been describing are named *gaves*. If they dry up in summer, the Spanish call them *quebradas*; in Sweden they bear