

The limits prescribed for this paper will permit us to give but a brief description of the mode of constructing and running of the rafts. The lumber is generally rated in pieces of about 3,500 feet, called "cribs," five or six of which constitute a "rapid-piece;" the cribs are either 16 by 12 feet, or 16 feet square, and generally consist of from twelve to twenty tiers of inch boards, exclusive of what are called the "grub-plank;" these are two inches in thickness, and placed at the bottom. The cribs are bound together by means of "grubs," a kind of pin, two inches in thickness, four feet in length, made from saplings of oak, iron-wood, or maple, dug out by the roots, a part of the root being left on, to form the head or lower end of the grub. The raftsmen, in forming a crib, selects three grub planks; these he arranges about five feet apart, parallel to each other, up and down the stream; each has three two-inch auger holes bored in it—one near each end, and one in the middle—and a grub inserted in each; three inch boards, bored in like manner, are then laid crosswise of the grub plank, the grubs inserted, which form the bottom or foundation of the crib; he then fills up the spaces between with inch boards, and crossing the next tier, continues the operation till he has as many courses as he judges safe, not to make his raft run too deep. Next he puts on two binding planks, bored to receive the grubs, parallel with the grub plank, and then applying a couple of links of a chain, called a "witch," by means of a lever, draws up the grub, pressing down the binding plank, and wedging the grub, makes all fast. His crib is now complete; about six of these are brought together endwise, and fastened by means of two more planks, coupling one crib to another, constituting a "rapid-piece." A solid piece of square timber, called a "head block," 5 by 7 inches, is laid across each end, and pinned. On each of these is hung the "oar," consisting of a pole 36 feet in length, with a twelve feet, 1½ inch plank, in the outer end for a blade, the oar neatly balanced across the head-block;