



CROSSING THE RANGE ON SNOW SKATES—SEE ANNEX NO. 32.

Denver and Salt Lake stage road, the telegraph marking the line for some distance along the railroad. On the right hand, the whole valley has been fenced in for grazing purposes.

The next station is 41.2 miles, denominated

**Red Buttes**—This locality derived its name from several ridges and peculiar formations of sandstone lying between the railroad and the Black Hills on the right.

Many of these sandstones rear their peaks from 500 to 1,000 feet above the plain, apparently worn and washed by the elements, into wild, fantastic shapes and grotesque figures. Rocks which, at a distance, might be taken for castles, rise side by side with the wall of an immense fort; churches rear their roofs, almost shading the lowly cottage by their side; columns, monuments and pyramids are mixed up with themselves and each other, as though some malignant power had carried off

some mighty city of the olden time, and, wearying of his booty, had thrown it down upon these plains, without much regard to the order in which the buildings were placed.

Some few only of these curiosities, can be seen from the car windows, and those are not the largest. The tourist, by stopping over a day or two at Laramie, would find much of interest in this section of the country.

The Laramie River rises about 50 miles to the southwest from Red Buttes, on the eastern slope of the mountains—its source being composed of almost innumerable springs. Its general course is northeast for 200 miles, when it empties into the North Platte River at Fort Laramie.

During the building of the road, thousands of ties were floated down to Laramie, and thence hauled along the line.

The supply of timber in this region is as near inexhaustible as can well be im-