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Summering the Sierra. 'The Season' at the Yosemite Valley-A Disquisition on Tourists-In Memoriam-Lamon's Grave. (From Our Correspondent.) Yosemite Valley, August 20, 1876.

John Muir

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SUMMERING IN THE SIERRA.

"The Season" at the Yosemite Valley—A Discussion on Tourists—In Memoriam—

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

YOSEMITE VALLEY, August 20, 1875.

Considering the remoteness and irregularity of the Yosemite Valley, and how little is known of it north of the Yoscmitc stream-travel, its flow has been remarkably constant. But this year the greater portion of its current seems to have been absorbed by the river which flows from the basin also a spongey bog or sandbed; a condition of things perhaps pardonable once a century, notwithstanding the fine summer marked this year by the number of independent campers from the sub-valleys. The chief function of the wagon-roads California farmers are beginning to appreciate the magnificent advantages of rest, health and pure pleasure offered them in the monotonous regions of their own unseen, and bugging provisions from house, the expenses of the trip are very slight; and as there are nowhere in the Yosemite Valley or within their families entirely—wives, children and limb, moulcous tables a few months old. Delightful camping grounds are found along the banks of the river, and others where one may perfectly feel at home. The possessors of tents have a fair chance of bivouac points in two or three days, and departs with a great deal of pride for accomplishing "something attempted, something done." The family campers remains as many weeks, in some cases a month, and occasionally make excursions of countr)', and are never suffering from the infrequent fevers so prevalent this summer among the low lands of the Barren and Sierras. Many interesting blizzards, while all are tootled and cheered to endure their days through the long, interminable year.

ABOUT TOURISTS.

The regular tourist, ever on the flow, is one of the most characteristic productions of the present century; and however frivolous and insignificant his sojourn in the Yosemite Valley may appear, viewed comprehensively they are a most hopeful and significant sign of the times, indicatively and symbolically pointing to nature, for going to the mountains is going home. People are observing, for the first time in their lives, how much pleasure travel may yield, and interesting a number of people to begetting as he is the "Yosemite" of the mountains. Men, women and children of every degree of social and pecuniary condition, mostly hard-fisted farmers from the Old West; these and the "sacred" Indians, "whately and "divinist" scientists seeking: number and eloquent lovers trying to escape from their usual surroundings, of whom we have heard, and all in some degree loving travel and "art for art's sake"; the pious purpose than they know, borne onward like ships at sea by currents they cannot understand.

Arriving in the valley, most parties keep long journeys, and for the most part it is necessary for them to be guided by trained guides, who by whom they are mounted on un­ 

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The skies were cloudy and calm and suggestive of the happy hunting they spend in the valley of the eternal springs. Long or, cumulations the they anxiously inquire, "because who has become our business them, most refreshing contrast their clear water sky, their clean, pure mal bers. and privations as home.

There is not above a score of visions in the valley all told, and of course landlords, stage-lords, guides and tourists-dealers in general, are downcast. Their countenances, usually so calm and suggestive of hidden power, are all cloudy and awry, and droop like frost-bitten ferns after a season, that they spend in meditation, and in languid discussions of their blighted harvest. "Is it," they anxiously inquire, "because of the more exciting attractions of the Centennial? or has the Yosemite beauty for the one or, worse than all, are the very foundations of our business giving way by Yosemite beauty becoming unmarketable?"

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF LAMON.

I strolled across the meadow the other day to the grave of Lamon, the good old pioneer, the only one of all the Yosemite inhabitants who cordially and unreservedly adopted the valley as home. He came here sixteen years ago, built his log cabin, and went to work. and berry picking in a fertile bed of aluminite at the head of the valley, near the mouth of Tenaya Canon, working faithfully from year to year, abiding winter and summer amid primitive conditions, until now that the valley is developed to the world. During several winters he was entirely alone—the only human being in the valley. On one occasion a vague report came to him that he was murdered by Indians, and a company of volunteers made their way over the snow from Mariposa to find him. He was a fine, erect, whole-souled fellow, between sixty and seventy years of age, with a face, bland and guileless as his pet oxen. He was no stranger to hunger and weariness, and knew how to appreciate suffering of a like kind in others; and many there were, more or less, that knew he was not more than the butcher, a simple, unostentatious kindness that found expression in a thousand small deeds. After gaining sufficient means to enjoy a long afternoon of life in comparative affluence and ease, he built a house, and retired from the world. He sleeps in a beautiful spot, in dry crystalline ground, not far from the foot of the glorious Yosemite Fall, and every stone and crystalline pressing on his coffin, is vibrating in harmony with the music of the mountains—like a flood of surpassing grandeur resounded throughout all the river channels of the range. Every stream was magnified a hundred fold, and bore down immense quantities of water, with a mighty roar. swimming the valleys, angular boulders, sweeping them out into the levels like floating wood ships and depositing them in rough gray soil-beds. One of the largest of these ancient flood-beds, Yosemite valley, was terminated by the mouth of Indian Canon and on its western margin Lamon has gone to sleep. The snow falls lightly there in winter, and noble oaks cast their shade above him through the leafy summer. A mile and a half inland, a hundred yards is fairly covered with the bloom of glia, choanactis and the fragrant monardella, varied here and there with tall, waving, golden rods, erinacous and thick, as they pressed their way up through a narrow path, and hewing blocks of Yosemite granite for Lamon's monument—an obelisk with massive base and pedestal, measuring about ten feet in height, plain and well-proportioned, but so unripe, Tissot, dedicated it to the memory of A. H. King and the monumental Sentinel Rock rising so near. Jos. Muir.