10-27-1885

The Yellowstone Park. A Trip to the Great National Reservation in the Northwest. Among the Great Geysers-Nature's Singular Laboratory-Sources of the Great Rivers. (Special Correspondence of the Bulletin.) Yellowstone Park, October 19, 1885.

John Muir

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/jmb

Recommended Citation
https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/jmb/150

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the John Muir Papers at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir: A Reading Bibliography by Kimes by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.
THE YELLOWSTONE PARK.

A Trip to the Great National Reservation in the Northwest.

Among the Great Geyser's - Nature's Singular Laboratory - Sources of Great Rivers.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BULLETIN.]

YELLOWSTONE PARK, Oct. 15, 1888.

In the heart of the mountains on the broad, rugged summit of the Continent, amid snow and ice, and dark shaggy forests, where the great rivers take their rise, there is a region, full of wonders, surpassing in wakful exciting interest any other region yet discovered on the face of the globe.

The greater portion of this new wonder-land is comprehended in what is beginning to be known as the Yellowstone National Park. It measures sixty-five miles in length from north to south, and fifty-five miles in width. And, fortunately, while it was as yet almost wholly unknown to the world in general, it has been known for many years that it contains all its strange wild beauty for the benefit and enjoyment of the people - one of the most noticeable pieces of legislation ever enacted, and a legacy which should give thanks. The withdrawal of this large tract from the public domain has caused no appreciable loss to any one, for its beauty is no less than its size. Forty to sixty thousand feet above the sea, and its rugged mantle of volcanic rocks, would prevent its ever becoming available to any great extent for mining purposes, while its climate, geographical position, and mountainous character, make it a grand gathering-place for travelers from every land seeking new health and life for body and soul.

THE NATIONAL PARK AS A CAMPING-PLACE.

It is a capital camping-ground: wood, water, and grass in abundance; lakes with beautiful shores, garden-like parks and meadows in the green season: glaciers, snow-capped peaks, with sheer banks, waterfalls and cascades of every form, some of them ranking with those of the Yosemite, and the rough volcanic mountains and canyons of the wilderness variety of form and color, afford fine work for the photographer. The thousand hot springs and geysers, rolling and spouting into the air and falling in scalding showers on the people, are a source of interest at a distance, every pot, pan, and fountain having something special in it, no two of them being alike. Cold, warm, or hot, they all seem to be used, even when not wanted.

Geysers are a great delight to feel at ease in a shop like this. The ground itself, usually so substantial, sounds hollow under foot, and the water below and flowing through pipes and pipes of all sizes, is a delight to the eye. And, when the sky is overcast with clouds, the geyser's seem to be completely saturated with crystal water, and the clouds are formed in innumerable forms.

The greater portion of the great Yellowstone reservoirs is covered with ice, and the snow is deep, making it a delightful place for the summer of the cool weather.

The Yellowstone Park is a grand show. It is about thirty miles long, and from one thousand to two thousand feet deep, a weird uncanny-looking gorge of mountains and canyons. The river leaps into it at the head in a fall of 500 feet, making a fine display as it sets out on its journey of 500 miles to the sea, and is but a few miles wide, and the river has now become a quiet stream, making a fine display of the Miller's fall, which is a delightful place.

THE GREAT CANYON.

The Yellowstone Canyon makes another grand show. It is about thirty miles long, and from one thousand to two thousand feet deep, a weird uncanny-looking gorge of mountains and canyons. The river leaps into it at the head in a fall of 500 feet, making a fine display as it sets out on its journey of 500 miles to the sea, and is but a few miles wide, and the river has now become a quiet stream, making a fine display of the Miller's fall, which is a delightful place.

Geysers are a great delight to feel at ease in a shop like this. The ground itself, usually so substantial, sounds hollow under foot, and the water below and flowing through pipes and pipes of all sizes, is a delight to the eye. And, when the sky is overcast with clouds, the geyser's seem to be completely saturated with crystal water, and the clouds are formed in innumerable forms.

The Yellowstone Park is a grand show. It is about thirty miles long, and from one thousand to two thousand feet deep, a weird uncanny-looking gorge of mountains and canyons. The river leaps into it at the head in a fall of 500 feet, making a fine display as it sets out on its journey of 500 miles to the sea, and is but a few miles wide, and the river has now become a quiet stream, making a fine display of the Miller's fall, which is a delightful place.

THE SOURCES OF GREAT RIVERS.

A more interesting river than the Yellowstone is the Missouri, the sources of which are the Yellowstone. The Missouri is the source of the Snake river flowing to the Columbia and on to the Pacific, and the upper tributaries of Great Falls and the Missouri, and the sea of California. To everybody over all the world, the Missouri is a beautiful, fresh, clean, and refreshing water, flowing up to the sky in snowy geysers, or downward into the mountains, or resting in calm rivers and lakes. Through from the snows and springs, massed in the seas or in drops of dew, or falling in clouds on the mountains; through all its forms for ages, the Missouri has been, and is, beautiful, fresh and clean.

JOHN MUIR.