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## As it Appears to John Muir.

John Muir

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### As It Appears to John Muir.

We do not believe that Californians, as a rule, will feel seriously hurt should the fight now making by *The Century* magazine for the resumption of Yosemite by the nation prove successful. The success of that fight would mean, no doubt, a material enlargement of the present reservation so as to include the headwaters of the Tuolumne, as well as those of the Merced. John Muir, the eminent naturalist, of this State, is an earnest advocate of this policy, and certainly the most interesting article of the current number of the magazine is that in which he describes, with pen and pencil, the beauties of the Hetch Hetchy region and the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, which parallels the Yosemite. Concerning the proposed enlargement he writes:

A bill has already been introduced in Congress by Mr. Vandever creating a national park about the reservation which the State now holds in trust for the people. It is very desirable that the new reservation should at least extend to the limit indicated by the map, and the bill cannot too quickly become law. Unless reserved or protected, the whole region will soon or late be devastated by lumbermen or sheepmen, and so, of course, be made unfit for use as a pleasure ground. Already, it is with great difficulty that the campers, even in the most remote parts of the proposed reservation and in those difficult of access, can find grass enough to keep their animals from starving; the ground is already being gnawed and trampled into a desert condition, and when the region shall be stripped of its forests the ruin will be complete. Even the Yosemite will then suffer in the disturbance effected on the water-shed, the clear streams becoming muddy and much less regular in their flow. It is also devoutly to be hoped that the Hetch Hetchy will escape such ravages of man as one sees in Yosemite. Ax, and plow, hogs and horses, have long been and are still busy in Yosemite's gardens and groves. All that is accessible and destructible is being rapidly destroyed—more rapidly than in any other Yosemite in the State, though this is the only one that is under the special protection of the Government. And by far the greater part of this protection of the fineness of wildness is of a kind that can claim no right relationship with that which necessarily follows use."

We would go farther than Mr. Muir. There does not appear to be any good reason why that elevated region in which the waters of the Sierra, from the American, south to the Kern, should not be reserved. The only industries possible in all this region are lumbering, quartz mining, and the grazing of sheep in summer. The mining industry languishes in that territory and might be abandoned without serious loss. The other two industries are a distinct injury to the agricultural interests of the great San Joaquin valley by destroying the leafy sponge which holds the water to feed the rivers the summer through. It may be too much to hope for a sweeping measure of this sort, but it is the right policy, nevertheless.