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John Muir

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We do not believe that Californians, as a rule, will feel seriously hurt should the present reservation be made by the magazine for the restoration of Yosemite to 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 reservation in that 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 be made so large that it not too quickly become law. If reserved or protected, the whole region will soon grade be devastated by timemen and sheepmen, and so, of course, be made little use as a pleasure ground. Those in the most remote parts of the proposed reservation and those whose access can find grass enough to keep their animals from starving; the country is already being ruined and turned into a desert condition, and when the region shall be stripped of its forests the rain will be the destruction of the State to Yosemite to the 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 be protected from the ravages of sheepmen in Yosemite. The plow, hogs and horses, have long been and are still busy in Yosemite's gardens and groves. All that is accessible and desirable to do is to keep them in check, and not in any other Yosemite in the woods, is the only one that is the special protection of the Government and is for the western part of this fine region, that is to say, the region that can claim the closest 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 valley, nevertheless.