

THE THREE TETONS.

Lying near the boundary line separating Idaho and Wyoming, between Jackson's Lake and Snake River on the east and Pierre's Hole on the west, is a range of needle-pointed granite peaks, extending from the Grand Canyon of Snake River northward, a distance of forty miles, to the southern extremity of the National Park of the Yellowstone. These form a portion of what was in former years termed the "Wind River Mountains," which region bore the deserved reputation among the early trappers and mountaineers of being the most rugged and impassable of all the ranges of that great "backbone of the continent," the Rocky Mountains.

They were first observed by Wilson Price Hunt's party, while crossing the continent in 1811 to assist in establishing at Astoria the headquarters of the Pacific Fur Company. On that memorable journey, which was fraught with more privations and suffering than any overland passage before or since, the three culminating spires served as landmarks for many days, and were called by Mr. Hunt the Pilot Knobs. A few years after the French trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company christened them the Three Tetons, and by this name were they known by the hardy mountaineers who found in the streams and "holes" of this region their richest trapping grounds. Hardy and brave as were these men, they were seldom given to mountain climbing simply to feast their eyes upon Nature's panorama. Yet many of them sought to scale the icy sides of the central and highest one without success. In 1860 James Bridger, that veteran mountaineer, asserted that by his old comrades it was considered impossible for a human being to ascend to the summit of the Grand Teton. In 1871 Professor F. V. Hayden, in reporting his explorations in the National Park, from many places in which they form such a grand feature in the landscape, referred to them as the Shark's Teeth, a name far more in consonance with the appearance of their spire-like tops than the title of the French trappers. The altitude is variously given in the geological reports as 13,858, 13,737, and finally, in 1877, as 13,691 feet.

In 1872 was made the only ascent of this mountain of which there is any record. A portion of Professor Hayden's party, under the leadership of James Stevenson, attempted the ascent, and of fourteen persons who undertook the feat only Mr. Stevenson and N. P. Langford succeeded in gaining the top. They considered that they had fairly won the privilege of naming the peak, and called it Mount Hayden, in honor of the chief of their expedition. Though beyond doubt the only white men who had ever stood on the apex of the mountain, and probably the only ones who will do so for years to come, they found evidences of the prior visits of human beings. Near the top they discovered an enclosure of granite slabs, evidently built as a protection from the wind, which had been so worn by the action of the elements that the eroded detritus lay at the bottom to the depth of a foot. To accomplish this it must have taken hundreds of years;

and the thought carries us away in musings upon our ignorance of the early races of America and speculations upon the nature of the prehistoric people who have left this enduring monument of their existence on the crowning dome of the Tetons.

Sponge Fishing in Florida.

Lying on his chest along the boat's deck the fisher, with his water-glass—a pane set in a box fitted with handles—looks down forty feet into the clear depths. With one hand he grasps and sinks a slender pole, sometimes fifty feet in length, fitted at the end with a double hook. The sponge once discovered, the hook is deftly inserted at the rocky base, and by a sudden jerk the sponge is detached to be brought up on deck. When first pulled from the rocks where it grows the sponge looks like a corrugated mass of putty. It is drab in color, exceedingly heavy, has a sickening odor, and is suffused by a stringy mucous which drops from it in long viscous lines. The external pores are partly closed up by a sort of sea bug, which finds refuge in them, and must be an annoying interloper to the sponge builder; while often a red sea worm, an inch or two in length, is found far within the spongy fibres, whither he has worked his way. What is the exact function of the mucous fluid does not yet appear to be clearly settled. But it is certain that when taken from the sponge and placed on still bottoms, new sponges are propagated from it; and if two species of the same living sponge, or of different sponges of the same species, are laid side by side on the sea bottom, they soon grow together. The vitality of the sponge, in fact, coupled with the decrease of the supply, suggests that ere many years artificial propagation may have to be used. This curt description of what seems the simple work of sponge fishing gives no idea of the real skill and exertion needed. The eye of the fisher has to be trained by long experience to peer into the sea and tell the commercially valuable sponges from those that are worthless. He must have a deft hand to manage the swaying hook forty feet down so as to detach the sponge without a tear. Above all, while doing this with one hand, he must manipulate with the other the water-glass as the waves sway it sideways and up or down. The strain on eye and body is most intense, to say nothing of the cramped position and exposure to wind and wet, which, first and last, make almost every sponge fisher a victim of acute rheumatism. Yet with all his arduous toil, a faithful sponge fisher earns not more than \$15 a month besides his "keep" on the boat, which barely deserves the name of existence.—*Tourist Gazette*.

Madison Canyon.

One of the most attractive spots in Montana, and one which will soon be rendered easily accessible to tourists, is the canyon of Madison River, on the edge of the National Park of the Yellowstone. It is reached by the branch line of the Utah & Northern Railroad, which will soon be constructed into the Park. When this is done the scene, of which we present an engraving on the next page, will become a familiar one to travelers.