

the mighty Tu-tock-ah-nu-la carved his lineaments upon the rocky front of El Capitan, that the Yo-Semites might ever remember him, and wandered away in search of the lost maid.

At the head of the South Fork of the Merced, in an arm of the valley extending to the southeastward, are to be seen the magnificent Nevada Falls, called "Yo-wi-ye" ("Meandering") by the natives. Ascent from the valley to the base of the falls is accomplished by means of a series of ladder stairways built up the face of the rocks, which had formerly been unscalable except by the use of ropes. The river pours over the brink 700 feet above, and falls in an unbroken sheet for 500 feet, then, striking upon the smooth side of the rocky wall, breaks into a thin sheet of silvery white fully 130 feet in width, the flying spray filling the air with sparkling sun-wrought diamonds. From here the river rushes tumultuously down through a rocky gorge until it again makes a plunge of 350 feet, reaching then the level surface of the valley. This is the Vernal Fall, whose sparkling drops of spray dancing in the sunbeams, which dyes them with beautiful tints, has won from the Indians the name of "Pi-wy-ack," signifying "A shower of sparkling crystals." A bold mass of perpendicular rock rising above the Nevada Fall on the north is called "Cap of Liberty," from its resemblance to the head-dress of the Goddess of Freedom. From its lofty top, which can be gained only after much patient climbing, is offered a splendid view of the valley and the mountain peaks which hem it in. From the southeastern corner of the summit, by lying prostrate upon the rock and protruding the head beyond the brink, one can gaze down the vertical precipice upon the top of Nevada Fall, fully 1,500 feet beneath, and see the water madly plunging over, to be shattered upon the rocks below. This mountain is called "Mah-tah" by the natives, meaning "Martyr, or Suicide, Mountain," probably from some tragedy enacted there in the days of their ancient progenitors.

There are many other scenes of beauty and objects of wonder in Yosemite, enough to require a week of diligent exertion to see them properly, while even months could be spent there with pleasure to the mind and profit to body. There are other waterfalls to visit and many a dome and spire to ascend before the valley has been seen in all its varied aspects; and when the visitor has accomplished all the feats of climbing required, and seen everything that challenges his admiration, he can depart with the quiet satisfaction of having beheld more grand and beautiful sights than can be found associated together in any other spot in the universe. There are three regular routes into the valley—by Stockton, Milton, Calaveras Grove and Murphy's; by Merced, Mariposa and Clark's, and by Madera and Clark's, the distance from San Francisco being 300, 243 and 275 miles respectively. The trip from San Francisco, the usual starting point to the Yosemite, is now a delightful one, which can be made with comparative ease and comfort, the former difficulties of rough trails, unreliable transportation and uncertain accommodations having been

removed by the commissioners. The exact time consumed, best routes of travel and the probable expense can be ascertained at the office of any hotel in that city.

The following is a complete table of the altitudes and nomenclature of the Yosemite:

WATERFALLS.			
Indian Name.	Signification.	American Name.	Feet above Valley.
Pohono	Spirit of the Evil Wind.	Bridal Veil Fall.	940
Lang-oo-too-koo-ya.	Long and Slender.	Ribbon Fall, or Virgin Tears.	3,300
*Yo-Sem-i-te	Large Grizzly Bear.	Yosemite Fall.	2,684
Pi-wy-ack.	Cataract of Diamonds.	Vernal Fall.	350
Yo-wi-ye.	Meandering.	Nevada Fall.	700
Tu-tock-ah-nu-lah.		South Ca yon Fall (above base).	600
†Loys.	A Medicinal Shrub.	Sentinel (cataract).	2,850
†To-coy-ah.	Shade to Baby Cradle-Basket.	Royal Arch Fall.	2,000
MOUNTAINS.			
Ti-sa-ack.	Goddess of the Valley.	South Dome.	6,000
		Cloud's Rest.	6,450
To-coy-ah.	Shade to Baby Cradle-Basket.	North Dome.	5,725
Hunto.	Watching Eye.	Washington Tower.	2,200
Mah-tah.	Martyr, or Suicide, Mountain.	Cap of Liberty (above foot Nevada Fall).	2,000
Sea-wah-lam.		Mount Starr King.	5,000
Er-nan-ting Law-oo-too.	Bear Skin.	Glacier Point.	3,705
Loys.	A Medicinal Shrub.	Sentinel.	3,270
Poo-see-nah Chuck-ka.	Large Acorn Storehouse.	Cathedral Spire.	2,400
Ko-soo-kong.		Three Graces.	3,750
		Cathedral Rock.	2,670
		Inspiration Point.	3,300
		Mount Sentinel.	2,900
Tu-tock-ah-nu-lah.	Semi-Deity and Great Chief of Valley.	The Captain.	3,300
Pom-pom-pa-sus.	Mountains playing Leap-Frog.	Three Brothers.	4,000
Hum-moo.	Lost Arrow.	Point E. of Yosemite.	3,100

* First fall, 1,500 feet; second fall (or cataract), 434 feet; third fall, 600 feet.
† Run only in the early spring.

The *Sequoia Gigantea*, commonly known as the "Big Trees," are one of the greatest instances of mammoth growth to be found in the world. With six feet as the accepted standard for the height of a large man, one eight feet tall is exhibited as a giant. How wonderful, then, must a tree seem which is 350 feet high and over 100 feet in circumference at the base, being three times the altitude and ten times the thickness of ordinary trees of a large growth? It is no wonder that it took several years, many certificates, and an actual exhibition of sections of bark in the Eastern cities, to establish the existence of such sylvan giants. There are a dozen groves of these giant trees in California, the most noted being those of Calaveras and Mariposa. Though the groves on San Joaquin and on King's and Kaweah River contain a greater number of trees, there are no individual specimens larger than are found in the former, and they are seldom visited by tourists.

The first recorded discovery of the *sequoia* giants was made in the spring of 1852, by a hunter named A. T. Dowd, who was employed to supply wild meat for workmen engaged in constructing the canal of the Union Water Company, of Murphy's Camp, Calaveras County. He suddenly came upon the grove while pursuing a wounded bear, and instantly lost all thoughts of his chase in amazement at this wonderful forest growth. His story of what he had seen only evoked shouts of incredulity and derision from his companions, which were turned into exclamations of astonishment when he conducted them to the grove to behold the wonder for themselves.