

It was not long before lovers of the marvelous began to make pilgrimages to this mammoth grove, sections of its bark were exhibited, the story of their immensity was spread far and wide, and later, when the overland railroad was built, tourists from the East and Europe became frequent visitors to the Calaveras forest and the great Yosemite.

Covering an area of fifty acres are 103 trees, twenty of them exceeding eighty feet in circumference at the base. One of these, known as the "Mammoth Tree," was felled by boring it off with augers, the task requiring five men's work for twenty-two days. This tree was 302 feet high and 96 in circumference at the base. Upon its stump, which has been made as smooth as a floor, four sets of cotillions have danced at one time, leaving plenty of room for musicians and spectators. Other trees which are still standing are equally enormous. The "Mother of the Forest" is 321 feet high, and measured 90 feet around its base before the bark was removed for exhibition. It is 137 feet from the ground to the first limb. A short distance from this lies the prostrate trunk of the "Father of the Forest," the largest of the group. The circumference at its base is 110 feet, and the first branch is 200 feet distant. It is hollow, and persons can readily pass through it walking erect. It is estimated, by the trunks of trees broken when this giant fell, that its height

was 435 feet; as it lies it is 18 feet in diameter where it is broken off, 300 feet from the roots. There are many others, some prostrate and decaying, but the majority still erect and sound to the core, the larger of which have received names generally significant of some peculiarity of the tree itself. Through portions of many of the fallen trees one can ride on horseback a distance of fifty to seventy-five feet. There are the "Husband and Wife," "Burnt Tree," "Hercules" (95 feet in circumference and 320 feet high), "Hermit" (318 feet high),

"Old Maid," "Old Bachelor," "Pioneer's Cabin" (broken off at a height of 150 feet, and measuring 33 feet in diameter at the base), "Siamese Twins," "Guardian,"

"Mother and Son," "Pride of the Forest," "Two Sentinels," "Three Graces," etc. Six miles south is another grove of 1,300 trees, some of them of grander proportions

than any found in the grove described, reaching a circumference of 130 feet.

The other forest most commonly visited is the one in Mariposa County, about sixteen miles southeast of the Yosemite Valley. This was discovered in 1855 by a hunter named Hogg, in a manner similar to the way in which the Calaveras grove was stumbled upon. There are in this vicinity several groves of varying sizes, the one generally visited being known as Mariposa grove. Fire has swept



Yosemite Falls.

NEVADA FALLS.

through portions of this magnificent forest, and many of the stricken giants lie prone upon the ground, partly consumed, while others still standing have only their charred trunks to attest their former greatness. Names befitting their various peculiarities have been bestowed upon the larger and more interesting of the trees in this grove, such as "Satan's Spear" (named in fanciful reference to the enormous weapon placed in the hand of the Prince of Darkness by the Blind Poet), "Wanona" (the stage road is tunneled through the base, and a six-horse Concord coach is covered by it from the leaders to the hind wheels), "The Giant's Tower," "Twin Sisters" (82 and 87 feet in circumference), "Beauty and the Beast" (a graceful and slender tree standing beside a knotty and scarred monster), "Queen of the Forest," "Keystone" (19 full grown horses can stand in its hollow end), "Artists' En-