

Home School

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Great Fountain Geyser.

THE word "geyser" was first applied to the great fountains of Iceland, but it has been applied to the wonderful fountains of the Yellowstone Park. These, with similar fountains in New Zealand, are the most remarkable in the world. At the Yellowstone Park, Excelsior Geyser throws up a column, sixty feet in diameter, to a height of three hundred feet; but its irruptions are rare. Those of "Old Faithful," on the contrary, occur every fifty or sixty minutes. There are over four hundred geysers in this basin. The "Giantess" plays only at intervals of ten or twelve days. These explosions of gas and steam, and water are the result of volcanic action, internal fires so heating the confined waters that they burst into steam, with a convulsion that shakes the ground for many rods around, and then they sink into quiescence till the tension again causes an outburst. These phenomena are among the most wonderful exhibitions of the power of God.

How Victoria Proposed.

"I WONDER how many people know that Victoria the Good, as it has been suggested the Queen of England shall be called, when she fell in love, had to do the proposing for herself!" said an Americanized Englishman, the other morning, whose reminiscences were called up by a Philadelphia *Press* reporter.

"I was very much interested in reading recently the account of her betrothal. It had always been expected that she and her cousin Albert would eventually make a match of it. When they both were about eighteen years old he visited England, but did not make much impression on the newly-crowned Queen. However, three years later, he made up his mind to a 'now or never' game, and, with his brother, visited her at Windsor Castle.

"Like more humble lovers, he was placed in a rather embarrassing predicament by the non-arrival of his luggage, and was thus prevented from dining with Her Majesty on the first evening.



GREAT FOUNTAIN GEYSER.

"For five days did Victoria study him, and then, after first telling her adviser, Lord Melbourne, what she had decided to do, she sent for Albert, saying that she desired to see him particularly. One account of the affair—certainly valuable for its brevity—reads as follows: 'What the Queen told him was that she loved him with her whole

heart, and that she desired to be his wife.' She was accepted without hesitation, as any good-looking sovereign of twenty might have hoped to have been, and so they were married.

"Another fact about her life which interested me was the fact that she was christened Alexandra-Victoria, with a hyphen, and not 'plain' Victoria as she is generally called. As a child she was called 'Irina'; and her maternal grandmother, who had a fondness for nicknames, gave her the endearing titles of 'Sweet Blossom of May,' and 'May Flower,' because of her birth. Oddly enough, two of her eight children were born in the same month. Helena on May 25, 1846, and Arthur on May 1, 1850."

A Well-Ordered Home.

BY EMMA W. BABCOCK.

IF every woman would set it before her, as an aim worthy of all that is strongest and best in her, to conduct a well-ordered home, a great deal of happiness and real beauty would be gained. . . . It is wonderful to see how much ingenuity is displayed by some women who, with very little money, are always dressed in perfect taste, and, with no apparent effort, keep old furniture from looking shabby, old carpets and curtains fresh and bright. But these things are accomplished by much thought and a great deal of hard work. Nothing helps a person to do things like doing them; and it is a fact that in time one who has an actual distaste for housework may come to regard her kitchen as a laboratory in which careful manipulations will produce exact results. One seeing only these results is not very much to blame for thinking them brought about in some magical

way. . . . Of course there is a difference in people, but many would be surprised if they were told that the reason why they can not do certain things is because they never really tried. . . .

A capital motto to be hung over the kitchen door is this: "Thou desirest truth in the inward parts;" and the woman who, when she expected