

The sights of California are many, but have already been done to death by the book-inditing tourist, whom the Pacific railroad has given facilities for descending easily on California. Of course, the Yosemite Valley is the chief of these sights. It is chiefly remarkable owing to the great height and almost verticality of the walls of the valley, and the small amount of *débris* at the base of the cliffs, that hem in the valley, which is also remarkable for its comparative narrowness. "The water-falls," wrote Professor Whitney, who has published the best and fullest description of them, "in and about this valley are also of wonderful beauty and variety. Those for the Yosemite Creek, which descend from the cliffs on the north side, are most remarkable for their height, which is, on the whole, not less than 2,600 feet, but divides into three parts, with one vertical fall of 1,500 feet. The Nevada and Merced Falls of the Merced River, which flows through the whole length of the valley, combine great height with a large body of water, and are wonderfully grand. The Half-Dome is one of the most striking features of the Yosemite, its elevation being 4,737 feet above the bottom of the valley, with an absolutely vertical face of 1,500 feet at the summit turned towards the Tenaya fork of the Merced, above which it rises. The scenery of the cañon of Tuolumne River, which flows parallel with the Merced, a few miles further north, is also extremely picturesque and remarkable, especially for the great number of varieties of the cascades which occur at short intervals in the deep gorge, the walls of which are bare, and almost vertical precipices, in places more than 1,000 feet high. The river, which is not much less than 100 feet wide, falls 4,650 in a distance of seventy-seven miles. A few miles further down, the narrow gorge opens out into a beautiful valley, in many respects a wonderful counterpart of the Yosemite, though inferior to it in grandeur. This is called the Hetch-Hetchy. Above the Yosemite valley the scenery of the High Sierra is very attractive, immense conical knobs or domes of granite being a prominent and very characteristic feature of this and other portions of the Sierra. Mount Dana, a little over 13,000 feet in height, dominates over the region above the Yosemite, and from its summit, which is quite easy of access, a magnificent panorama may be had of the Sierra Nevada, with Mono Lake, nearly 7,000 feet below, spread out like a map, and beyond it the lofty, and, in some instances, snow-clad ranges of the Great Basin, while several well-formed and very large volcanic cones are seen just to the south of the lake." The "Big Trees" are another of the familiar wonders of California. The tree is the *Sequoia*, or as it was long called by botanists, the *Wellingtonia gigantea*, one of the fir and pine order. It is found in company with the sugar pine, the Douglas fir, and the pitch pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), but is much more limited in its distribution than any of these widely-spread trees. It is found only in California, and in groves or patches, from lat.  $36^{\circ}$  to  $38^{\circ} 15'$ , never at a higher elevation than 7,000 feet, and never much lower than 4,000. There are eight or nine patches of these trees in the State, the largest being that which stretches along the tributaries of King's or Kaweah River, about thirty miles N.N.E. of Visalia. The trees, unlike, however, those in the Mammoth Grove, Calaveras County, are not in a clump, but scattered among other species. The highest yet seen is 352 feet in height, and the circumference of some of them near the ground is nearly 100 feet, or more than thirty feet in diameter. The trunk of many of them