

The Upper Geyser Basin.—About five miles above the "Excelsior" Geyser we come to the Upper Geyser Basin, where are found the chief geysers of this marvelous region. The basin has an area of about four square miles, and a general elevation of 7,372 feet. There had been discovered within the park previous to 1878, 2,195 springs and geysers, including seventy-one active geysers. These figures resulted from only a partial survey of the region. The Upper Basin group includes, with others, the following: "Old Faithful," "Castle," "Bee Hive," "Giant," "Giantess," "Grotto," "Grand," "Oblong," "Splendid," "Comet," "Fan," "Mortar," "Riverside," "Turban," "Saw Mill," "Lion," and "Lioness." These are scattered over the surface of the basin, chiefly along the river bank, "Old Faithful" being at the southern extremity, and the "Fan," "Mortar," and "Riverside" at the northern end, near where the wagon road enters the basin. The "Grotto," "Giant," "Oblong," and "Castle" are near the road. The "Bee Hive," with its handsome cone, from which the geyser takes its name, together with the "Giantess" and "Lion" group is upon the opposite side of the river from the hotel.

From the Geyser basins the route turns to the eastward, via Mary's Lake, to the Yellowstone Lake. This beautiful sheet of water has an area of 139 square miles. A fine view of the mountains on the south side can be had from the hotel.

From the lake to the falls and canon of the Yellowstone, the route is via **Sulphur Mountain**, a most extensive deposit of sulphur in a region of hot springs.

The Yellowstone Falls are two in number. At the head of the Upper Fall the river has a width of about eighty feet, and the waters plunge over a shelf, between walls that are from 200 to 300 feet in height, upon a partially submerged reef 109 feet below. Dense clouds of spray and mist veil fully one-third of the cataract from view.

Half a mile below this fall is the Lower or Great Fall, which is grander and more impressive than the other, though not more picturesque. Here the waters pour into the fearful abyss of the Grand Canon, the sheer descent being 312 feet. The wooded slopes of the gorge tower far above the flood, and one has to descend a steep incline to reach a platform which serves as a good view-point at the verge of the fall.

The Grand Canon of the Yellowstone. The canon may well be considered the greatest of the park marvels. The height of the plateau at the falls is 7,800 feet. It increases slightly northeastward, until, in passing the mountains, it has an elevation of about 8,000 feet. Thence northward it decreases in height rapidly, and at the mouth of Tower Creek it reaches but 7,200 feet. At the head of the Upper Fall the river level is but a few feet below the top of the plateau. This fall adds 112, and the lower fall 300, feet to the depth of the chasm. From the foot of this fall to the mouth of East Fork the total descent is 1,304 feet in a distance of twenty-four miles, being an average of 54.3 per mile.