

tickets intended to return to the valley in the evening ; the rest were driven back to Wawona Hotel. A sublime panorama opened up before us as we advanced towards Mirror Lake, near views were had of the Hall Dome, which presents so many aspects of rugged grandeur from every point of observation ; no two views are the same. Nearly half an hour was spent at the marvellously beautiful Mirror Lake, in which three mountains—Mount Watkins, 4,200 feet high ; Cloud's Rest, 6,000 feet ; and the Half Dome, 5,000 feet—are all perfectly reflected. Even the peculiar forms on the face of the rock were clearly seen. The rays of the rising sun were also visible under the surface of the water, as well as the sun itself, as it came slowly over the brow of the mountain. At Tis-sa-ack Bridge horses, ponies and mules were found waiting to take us by Anderson's trail to Glacier Point, an uphill journey of about four hours over the shoulders of Grizzly Peak and the Cap of Liberty. Being very fond of mountain-climbing, I was glad of the opportunity to have a good walk, particularly after being confined for a couple of days in a stage coach, and for the greater part of the way I led the party on foot. All the others were mounted. The road was a good one ; and although it led at times over steep places, I did not feel anything like as fatigued as when climbing Ben Nevis and Ben Lomond in Scotland, and Snowdon in North Wales. This was one of the most delightful walks I ever took. The outlooks grew gradually grander and grander as we ascended till the climax was reached at Glacier Point. From this splendid panoramic standpoint, the entire valley was spread out below us, "where hotels were as huts, trees of 200 feet mere shrubs, men as black spots on the surface of the green, Mirror Lake a bright speck, and an apple orchard of four acres, the trees set twenty feet apart, appeared as a checker board"; besides, views were had of the beautiful Vernal and Nevada Falls, and Diamond Cascade, which we had passed, with the wild depths of intervening canyons ; and more wonderful than all, the main crest of the Sierras was spread out in front, with its chain of mountains stretching away to the north for a distance of over forty miles, the ridges farthest away being completely covered with snow. This royal feast on Nature's beauties over, and the "inner man" attended to by partaking of a hurried lunch, we started for a drive of about twenty-five miles to Wawona Hotel.

At six o'clock on the morning of the fourth day, fifty-five tourists left the hotel in coaches for a drive to Raymond by way of the Mariposa Big Trees. These giants of the primeval forest are in a Government reservation two miles square. There are 365 trees, one for each day in the year, 154 of which exceed 15 feet in diameter, and several are more than 300 feet in height. Each bears the name of some State in the Union or the name of some celebrated American. There are openings in all the trunks, caused, no doubt, by the hand of vandalism ; indeed, as many as five wide passages have been burned through one trunk. Otherwise, these big trees, *Sequoias*, give no indication of decay or death. They grew bigger and bigger as we approached "The Grizzly Giant," at the base of which we dismounted. Nineteen persons spread themselves out and joined hands around the trunk. This tree is 92 feet in circumference, and 285 feet high. Although not as symmetrical as many others in the grove, it is perhaps the most striking of all, having several very large limbs ; one up 100 feet, fully six feet in diameter, shoots out horizontally for some distance, and then turns abruptly to the vertical. The rings of annual growth on these trees indicate an age of about 4,000 years. We climbed a ladder to the top of a prostrate tree, which originally measured 40 feet in diameter, and was 400 feet in height. In the "Haverford" sixteen horses have stood at one time ; "Washington" has a girth of 91 feet ; the "Mariposa," 86 feet ; "The Workshop" has a capacious hollow at its base 12 by 16 feet. These trees grow in deep soil, in sheltered hollows at the head of ravines, and at an altitude above sea-level of over 4,000 feet. Nearly the last seen was "Wawona," 27 feet in diameter, through the centre of which an arch or tunnel has been cut, 10 feet square, by which stage-coaches loaded with passengers can readily pass. On our way to Raymond the dust raised was so great that a young man from Philadelphia turned seriously ill. A branch railroad to the Yosemite Valley, it was generally conceded, was greatly needed. The party separated at Berenda, quite a number going on to Los Angeles for further sight-seeing ; but the majority, like myself, returned to San Francisco, to make the necessary preparations for the long journey home.

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