

right, two lakes filled with water-fowl on the left to Amethyst Creek

From this creek there are several steep but not difficult routes of ascent to the grassy dome south, which is the front and lower one of the famous Specimen, or Amethyst Mountain, from the fossilized trunks and stumps of ancient forests upon which, the first, the greatest number and among the finest specimens of fossil wood, chalcedony, onyx, opal, and beautifully-tinted agates, amethysts, and other crystals ever found in any region have been obtained, and comparatively few, obtainable without heavy work with pick and fuse, remain. But those with curiosity, nerve, and a good horse can follow near the verge of the cliffs about a mile, and then descend, zigzagging their horse as I have done, to our old camp in the aspens, beneath in the valley to the left, or go the whole 2 miles along the cliffs, descending by the timbered cañon beyond. They will find descent a vertical half-mile at either of these places is not boy's play.

The valley route is smooth and open, affording a fine view at a half-mile's distance of the countless fossils, stumps, trunks supported by the vertical walls or the prostrate logs of a succession of ancient forests, the roots of one often over the tops of that beneath to a vertical height of nearly a half-mile; to the east fork of the Yellowstone

Here the bridle-path forks, and following that to the left in the open valley and across the creek, we reach the famous ancient geyser cone and present medicinal springs of Soda Butte.

This is the legendary spring of the surrounding Indian nations for the cure of the saddle-galls of horse, or arrow or other wounds of warriors, and besides properties similar to those of the Arkansas Hot Springs, will soon fatten man or animal using it. To this add its location in a sheltered valley amid and in plain view of the fossil forests and basaltic snow-capped cliffs of the Specimen, Longfellow, Norris, Grand Tower, and other surrounding mountains, it cannot (properly managed) fail of soon becoming one of the foremost summer resorts of the continent.

CLARK'S FORK MINERS' TRAIL.

From the Soda Butte this bridle-path passes the famous Trout Lake

Miles. Miles.

I 10

2 12

3 15

2 17