



TEMPLES AND BUTTES TO THE EAST OF THE GRAND SCENIC DIVIDE.

Harrison Gray Otis writes : " Suddenly the awful majesty of the Grand Canyon is revealed to the startled vision. There lies the mighty red rift in the earth, the most stupendous gorge within the knowledge of man. The mind is spellbound by the spectacle ; the voice is silent ; the heart is subdued ; the soul turns in profound reverence to the Almighty, whose handiwork is here seen on a colossal scale." To see visitors burst into tears and in a tremble of ecstatic fear is a common sight.

It is the theory of geologists that 10,000 feet of strata have been

swept by erosion from the surface of this entire platform, whose present uppermost formation is the Carboniferous. The climax in this extraordinary example of erosion is, of course, the chasm of the Grand Canyon proper, which, were the missing strata restored to the adjacent plateau, would be 16,000 feet deep. The layman is apt to stigmatize such an assertion as a vagary of theorists, and until the argument has been heard it does seem incredible that water should have carved such a trough in solid rock. It is easier for the imagination to conceive it as a work of violence, a