

beauties of nature still more enjoyable. Nowhere in the West is there more beautiful village. It possesses handsome business and public buildings, a number of church edifices graceful in architecture, private residences constructed with excellent taste and generally surrounded by ample grounds neatly laid out. The streets are arboresced with beautiful trees, and nothing indeed is wanting to impress the visitor with the quiet and elegance of the surroundings. The scenery in the vicinity of Sparta is already celebrated. From the town may be seen Castle Rock, five miles distant, rising up over seven hundred feet above the level of the river, and displaying its grand proportions to the eye as it lifts its head far above the numberless large bluffs that encompass the valley. The summit of the



TROUT FALLS, SPARTA.

rock affords a view of the country for many miles around. The hills of Minnesota, far away across the Mississippi, are plainly visible, and in every direction a vista of surpassing loveliness opens to the spectator. The hills and valleys covered with verdure, and intersected by hundreds of sparkling running streams and brooklets, where the anglers delight to tarry and the royal speckled trout make their home by thousands. Picturesque drives extend and cross in every direction; romantic sites for camp grounds, often in the summer dotted with the snowy tents of tourists who like to take their holiday *au naturel*, abound everywhere, and the roar and fly of the expert angler whip and whisk along the banks of rivulet and cascade. Two years ago over twenty tons of speckled trout were captured in these waters.