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*By the Same Author.*

THE SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA.

COLORADO:  
Its Parks and Mountains.

A SUMMER VACATION IN CAMP AND SADDLE  
WITH VICE-PRESIDENT COLFAX.

BY SAMUEL BOWLES,  
AUTHOR OF "ACROSS THE CONTINENT."

A volume of 175 pages—Price One Dollar.

*From the Preface.*

THESE letters of a Summer Vacation, in saddle and camp, among the great Central Parks and Mountains of America in Colorado, are gathered into this volume in order both to satisfy and stimulate the public interest in a region of our New West destined to a peculiar place in the future of America. We saw enough of it in our stage ride across the Continent in 1865 to suggest that it would become the Switzerland of America; Bayard Taylor, a wider traveler and closer observer, made a more familiar tour in 1866, and more formally pronounced the same judgment; and now, after a new visit, and an intimate acquaintance with all its details, we find our original enthusiasm more than rekindled, our original thought confirmed.

The distinctive physical feature of Colorado is her wide elevated Parks, lying among her double and treble folds of the continental range of mountains,—great plains, like counties in Illinois and Iowa, or states in New England, six thousand to nine thousand feet above the sea-level, surrounded by mountains that rise from three to five thousand feet higher; plains, green with grass, dark with groves, bright with flowers; mountains, dreary with rocks, white with snow. The distinctive charm is the atmosphere, so clear and pure and dry all the while, as to be a perpetual feeling, rather than vision, of beauty; invigorating every sense, softly soothing every pain, lending a glory to landscape and life alike, clothing every feature of nature with beauty, and giving the eye of every spectator the power to see it,—this is the indescribable thing that lifts Colorado out of other lackings, and more than compensates, in the comparison, for what is peculiar to Switzerland.

Here, where the great backbone of the Continent rears and rests itself; here, where nature sets the patterns of plain and mountain, of valley and hill, for all America; here, where spring the waters that wash two-thirds the western Continent and feed both its oceans; here, where mountains are fat with gold and silver, and prairies glory in the glad certainty of future harvests of corn and wheat—here, indeed, is the center and the central life of America,—fountain of its wealth and health and beauty. Switzerland is pleasure and health; Colorado is these and use besides,—the use of beauty, and the use of profitable work united. I beg every traveler by the Pacific Railroad not to "pass it by on the other side;" for, in so doing, he would offend the best that is in him.

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