



THE LOWER CANYON—Bonwill.

a general elevation of from 10,000 to 12,000 feet, from which rise many peaks, whose rugged outlines proclaim their volcanic origin. The country is so elevated that it can never be available for agricultural purposes nor for stock-raising. Snow falls very early in the fall, and the winter ex-

tends into the summer months. During July and August the weather is delightful, the thermometer rarely, if ever, getting above 70 deg. F. It, however, very often in the morning falls to 26 deg. F., and sometimes even to 15 deg. F., but the air is so pure and invigorating that one does not seem to feel it as much as we do higher temperatures in this climate. There are very few storms, and the bracing winds which spring up every afternoon make it a most pleasant place to spend the latter part of July and the month of August. From the northeast corner of the reservation flows Clarke's Fork of the Yellowstone River. From the southwest corner the Snake River, or Lewis' Fork of the Columbia, finds its way, while on the western side, the Madison River, one of the three forks of the Missouri, has its origin. A few miles above it is the Gallatin River, another of the three forks. But the main mass of water is the Yellowstone Lake, in the southeast.

ern corner, from which the Yellowstone River flows in a northerly direction.

The Grand Cañon of the Yellowstone is one of the most remarkable gorges in the world. The river has cut its way through volcanic rocks to a depth varying from 1,000 to 3,000 feet. It extends for a distance of thirty miles. The walls are inclined to an angle of from 45 deg. to 80 deg., and in many places they become vertical. They are so eroded as to leave standing masses of rock, resembling towers, spires and minarets. The prevailing color is white, from the decomposing felspar of the volcanic rocks, while at some points bright red bands, colored with iron, the deposit of hot springs, extend from the top to the bottom of the cañon. Many of the rocks are black, while others are yellow from the infiltration of sulphur. At the bottom of this deep gorge the river rushes, boiling and surging as it goes. The scene is awfully grand—it surpasses

all description. To be appreciated it must be seen. At the head of the Grand Cañon are the Great Falls of the Yellowstone. The river, suddenly narrowed to a width of eighty feet, rushes in an immense volume over a ledge of rock, falling a distance of 350 or 400 feet to the bottom of the cañon.



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