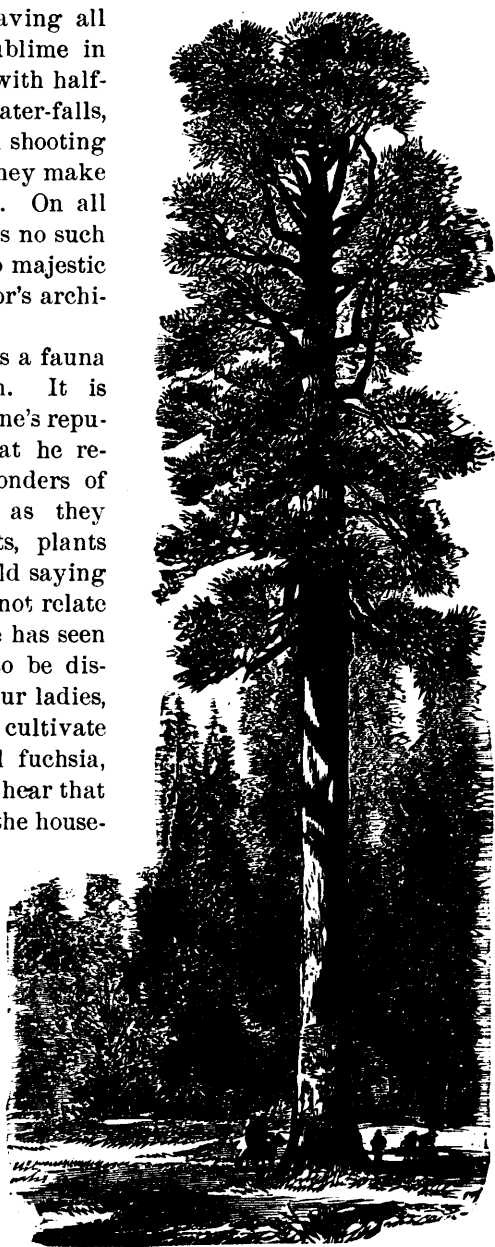


to a mile in height, having all that is varied and sublime in rock formations, and with half-a-dozen enchanting water-falls, leaping, sparkling and shooting into arrowy spray as they make their amazing descent. On all this fair earth there is no such shrine of beauty or so majestic a display of the Creator's architecture.

The Pacific Coast has a fauna and flora of its own. It is almost at the peril of one's reputation for veracity that he records some of the wonders of vegetation, especially as they relate to flowers, fruits, plants and trees. It is an old saying that a traveller must not relate more than half that he has seen if he does not wish to be disbelieved. I suppose our ladies, who take such pains to cultivate the rare and beautiful fuchsia, will open their eyes to hear that there they climb up to the house-top and have trunks as large as one's arm. On the Fraser River they grow beets, some of which weigh one hundred pounds each. The fruits of California are the largest and most luscious in the world; the pears growing three times and the plums four times as large as those we see here. But the biggest of all



MARIPOSA BIG TREE. [GARDNER] 1869

things, in the way of botany, are the mammoth trees of the groves of Mariposa. We felt that all the forests we had seen in this country were but *underbrush*, when in British Columbia we saw