

Keeping high above the valley we passed the first amphitheater below the great column. In order to explore the next, we deposited our packs upon a rock and followed the gorge to its head, where a small hanging glacier several hundred feet above barred further advance. Returning to our packs, we proceeded up the valley just at treeline, watching the unbroken walls for gullies or other possibilities of ascent. At length I recognized ahead of us the Gorge of the Winds, and the subordinate ridge east of it that I named Wirvaxy. Stopping at four o'clock by a pretty waterfall just before reaching the gorge, we explored the rock slope above, easily accessible from this point. This we followed round until we looked down into the Gorge of the Winds; but returned without observing any way of ascent up the colossal walls rising to our left, and made a resting place in a hollow of the heather slope, whence at a glance we could survey the valley beneath, with its lakes and river and peaks and glaciers beyond, while the wind in the tamarock-boughs made harmony with the music of the waterfall.

Continuing up the valley next morning we were gradually forced to descend as we rounded the Wirvaxy ridge, reaching the river bed near a small lake, which I have known as Trout Lake.

In descending to this lake by a steep slope of hard scree top-heavy from my pack, a mis-step placed me in unstable equilibrium upon my back, supported only by my axe-stick. I felt that once started downward I should be unable to stop and should probably be hurt upon the rocks below. A side-spring toward a rock that, fortunately, did not yield, enabled me to continue the descent in safety. The niceties of balance and fine calculations of chances involved in extricating oneself from precarious situations, have always seemed to me a sauce and a tonic.

Soon we came upon the western end of as beautiful a lake as I have ever seen. While showing neither glaciers nor snow upon the immediate peaks, the immense walls to the left and the cliffs and ideally pyramidal peak to the right, formed a

---

dangers. Let those who succeed in reaching the summits of these superb peaks enlighten us as to the existence of cairns on their summits. I have little doubt that they will find them as destitute of this adornment as I found Hazel Peak and Mount Temple.