

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

IN the northwest corner of Wyoming, in the heart of the Rockies, is located the Yellowstone National Park; a marvelous district which aptly deserves the name, "The American Wonderland." It was first brought to public attention by the romancing tales of the trapper; and, of course, there was much that was unbelievably. His proneness to exaggeration and his impeachable veracity were too well known. But curiosity, at least, was aroused and scientific expeditions were at once set upon foot to make explorations in the region in question. Evidence was produced of marvelous cliffs of volcanic glass, magnificent waterfalls, mountains of perpetual snow, hills of brimstone, and of thousands of other curiosities, verifying many of the legends of the trapper. At once the importance of preserving and protecting such natural wonders became evident, and by act of Congress it was dedicated as The Yellowstone National Park.

This reservation is not very large, indeed, not as large as many of the counties of our own State. Although only extending over sixty-five miles from east to west, and seventy-five from north to south, it cradles in its bosom an infinite diversity of form and flower. With the first view of its Indian meadows the effusive spirit breaks forth in the exclamation, "How beautiful!" The more sombre mind is transfixed with the freshness and beauty of the scene. The artistic soul becomes wild with delight at the panorama of sparkling brook and glittering flower, surrounded first by the dark background of the forest and then by snow-white peaks, from one of which, Electric Peak, the lightning often flashes in electrical displays. Here at one time, they tell us, the Indian had his tepee, and we do not doubt this in the least, for in some of the trees yet remain bundles of branches, evidencing the tomb of some aborigine.

Its peaks father its brooks, which, in turn, are the sources of three great rivers; the Yellowstone, the Columbia and the Missouri, conscious in their greatness of their communion with the clouds. In very nearly the centre of the park is the Yellowstone Lake, rivaling in its opalescence the sparkle of the snow on the surrounding heights. At its no mean elevation of 8,000 feet it is