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102. The Yosemite Valley.

Approaches. The usual and most convenient approach to the Yosemite Valley is that described below, viâ *Berenda* and *Raymond* (44 hrs.). The Valley is also sometimes entered viâ *Stockton* and *Milton* (31 hrs.; p. 450), and this picturesque route, which includes the Hetch-Hetchy Valley (p. 513) and the Calaveras Grove (p. 450), may be used for a variation in returning to San Francisco. Circular tickets are issued by the *Yosemite Stage & Turnpike Co.* (office, 613 Market St.) for the journey from San Francisco to the valley and back for \$38; the charge for board at the hotels on the way and in the Valley (two days) and for conveyance to the chief points of interest by horse or carriage is \$22.50. Similar tickets may be procured at Los Angeles, etc. It is advisable to apply for tickets some days in advance, as the stage-accommodation in entering the Valley is limited; and the same precaution should be observed in leaving the Valley.

[Travellers approaching the Valley viâ the Stockton and Milton route take the train from San Francisco to (103 M.; 4 hrs.) *Stockton* (p. 450) and from Stockton to (30 M.; 1 hr.) *Milton* (p. 450), and go on thence by stage to (41 M.; 10 hrs.) *Priest's*, where the night is spent. An early start is made next morning, and the remaining 50 M. are driven over in 10 hrs. In leaving the Valley the night is spent at *Chinese Camp* (p. 450), 29 M. from Milton.]

Hotels. The only hotel in the Valley itself (\$2½-4 a day) affords reasonably comfortable quarters. There are also fair hotels at the stopping-places of the stages on the way into the Valley, and likewise a good inn at Glacier Point (p. 514).

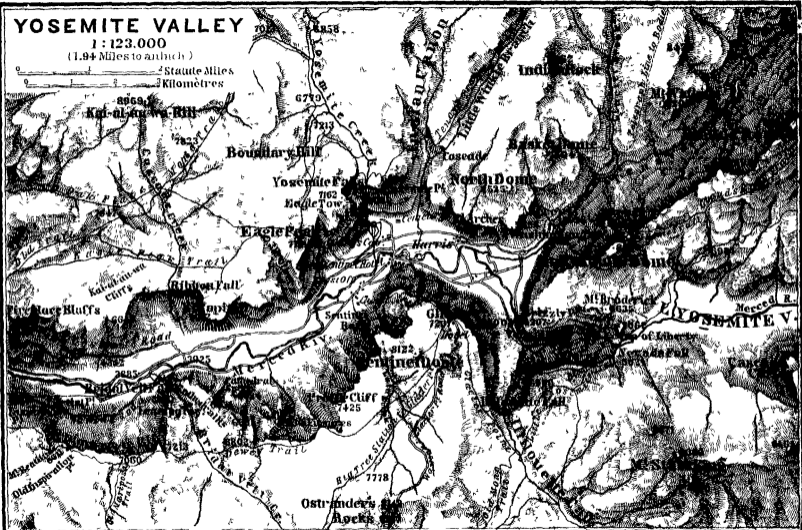
Season. Plan of Tour. The season of travel in the Yosemite begins about April 1st and ends about Nov. 1st. Perhaps the middle of May is on the whole the best time for a visit, as the roads are then generally free from snow or dust, the temperature is pleasantly warm by day and cool at night, the waterfalls are still full of water, the snow-effects on the mountains are fine, and the wild-flowers are in profusion. On the other hand some of the trails may still be closed by snow. Campers usually visit the Valley in June, July, or Aug., and suitable camping-places are set apart for their use. It is possible to see all the points usually visited in about three days, but it is advisable to spend at least a week in the Valley. Those who have time for one trip only should select that to Glacier Point, which gives a view of the Valley itself, the Sierra Nevada, and the Vernal and Nevada Falls. Next in importance come the Falls just named, Eagle Peak and the Yosemite Falls, and Cloud's Rest (the last for the more energetic). No one should fail to see the sun rise in Mirror Lake, which can be easily done on the same day as any of the other usual excursions except the very longest. The charges for horses, mules, carriages, and guides are reasonable and are fixed by the Board of Commissioners (tariff on application at the hotel). The roads on the floor of the Valley are good, and the mountain-trails are as a rule excellent bridle-paths, though nervous persons, or those inclined to dizziness, may find some of them rather trying to ride down. In this case, however, it is easy to dismount and go on foot, letting the mule follow. The Guides (\$3) are usually pleasant and obliging, but do not compare in intelligence or knowledge of the country with the best Swiss guides. The trails are so unmistakable that their functions are mainly confined to looking after the horses.

Bibliography. The standard work on the Yosemite is the 'Yosemite Guide-book' by Prof. J. D. Whitney (published in three sizes, but at present unfortunately out of print). See also J. M. Hutchings' 'In the Heart of the Sierras'. Excellent maps of the Yosemite Valley have been published by the U. S. Corps of Engineers (Wheeler Survey) and the Geological Survey of California. Good photographs may be obtained from Taber & Co., San Francisco, or from George Fiske, in the Valley itself. — The botanist will find the Yosemite Valley a place of great interest, and the number and variety of its wild flowers are especially remarkable. The singular snow-

YOSEMITE VALLEY

1 : 123.000
(1.94 Miles to an Inch)

Scale in
Stade Miles
Kilomètres



15- SAND

15- SAND

15- SAND

15- SAND

15- SAND

plant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*), elsewhere rare, is frequently found in or near the Yosemite in May and June. It has the form of a bright scarlet column, 3-12 inches high, and grows on the edge of snow-drifts or in ground recently covered with snow. Good shooting and fishing may also be obtained.

According to the present time-tables the train (through-sleeper from San Francisco to Raymond) leaves *Berenda* (see p. 495) early in the morning and runs towards the E. to (22 M.) *Raymond* (hotel). The stages, in which the seats we are to retain till we reach our destination are assigned to us by number, leave Raymond about 7 a.m. The first part of the drive is comparatively uninteresting, as well as hot and dusty in summer; it is therefore hoped that the railway may be extended to Ahwanee (see below). Beyond (14 M.) *Grub Gulch* we are accompanied for some time by a long 'flume' for bringing timber down the mountains. To the right is a *Gold Mine*, worked by electric power.

20 M. **Ahwanee** (*Hotel*, \$3, L. \$1) is the luncheon-station. — The scenery now improves. *Look-out Point* commands a fine retrospect, extending over the plain to the coast-hills. The timber along the road is fine, including sugar-pines (*Pinus Lambertiana*), yellow pines (*Pinus ponderosa*), silver firs (*Abies magnifica*), cedars (*Libocedrus decurrens*) and oaks, besides pretty blossoming trees like the dogwood (*Cornus Florida*), buckeye (*Aesculus Californica*), and California lilac (*Ceanothus integerrimus*). The curiously twisted and red-trunked manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) is also abundant.

42 M. **Wawona** or **Big Tree Station** (3925 ft.; *Hotel*, \$4, S., R., & B. \$3½), the usual halting-place for the night (reached about 6 p.m.), is beautifully situated on the S. fork of the *Merced River* (p. 508) and forms pleasant headquarters for a prolonged stay. The principal point of interest in the vicinity is the *Mariposa Grove of Big Trees*, 7 M. to the S.W., usually visited by Yosemite travellers on their way out of the valley. — The roads from *Merced* (p. 495) and *Madera* (p. 495), by which a few visitors approach the Yosemite, join ours at Wawona.

The *Mariposa Grove of Big Trees* (6500 ft.), so-called from its situation in Mariposa ('butterfly') county, occupies a tract of land, 4 sq. M. in area, reserved as a State Park, and consists of two distinct groves, ½ M. apart. The *Lower Grove*, which we reach first, contains about 100 fine specimens of the *Sequoia gigantea* (see p. 450), including the 'Grizzly Giant', the largest of all, with a circumference of 94 ft. and a diameter of 31 ft. Its main limb, 200 ft. from the ground, is 6½ ft. in diameter. In ascending to the *Upper Grove*, which contains 365 big trees, the road passes through a tunnel, 10 ft. high and 9½ ft. wide (at the bottom), cut directly through the heart of a living *Sequoia*, 27 ft. in diameter. The road passes close to nearly all the largest trees in the Grove, the names and dimensions of which will be supplied by the driver. About 10 of the trees exceed 250 ft. in height (highest 272 ft.) and about 20 trees have a circumference of over 60 ft., three of these being over 90 ft. The *Calaveras Grove* (see p. 450) has taller trees than any in the *Mariposa Grove*, but the latter has those of greatest circumference. Many of the finest trees have been marred and reduced in size by fire. The wood of the *Sequoia gigantea*, like that of the *Sequoia sempervirens* (redwood; comp. p. 494), is easily

worked, durable, and susceptible of a high polish. Small articles made of it may be bought at the pavilion in the Upper Grove.

To the W. of the Wawona Hotel rises *Signal Peak* (7860 ft.), the top of which (7 M.) may be reached by a good road. The view embraces the San Joaquin Valley (p. 495) and innumerable peaks of the Sierra Nevada. — The *Chinooatna Falls* (300 ft. high), 5 M. to the N.E., are reached by a good bridle-path and repay a visit.

Good fishing and shooting (with some chance for a bear) are obtainable round Wawona. — Close to the hotel is the Studio of *Mr. Thomas Hill*, well known for his pictures of the Yosemite. Dried flowers, exquisitely mounted by Mrs. Hill Jr., may be bought here.

Beyond Wawona the scenery traversed is of a very high order. The road mounts rapidly, commanding a series of fine views, and finally attains an elevation of 6500 ft. The descent is equally rapid. At (53 M.) *Eleven Mile Station* the horses are changed. At (55 M.) *Chinquapin Station* the direct road to *Glacier Point* diverges to the right (see p. 511). About 6 M. farther on we reach ****Inspiration Point** (5600 ft.), where we obtain the first view of the valley, with El Capitan to the left, Cathedral Spires and Sentinel Dome to the right, and the Half Dome and North Dome in the background. Farther on we descend a winding road, with rapid turns, 'hair-pin' bends, and glorious views of the valley. On reaching the floor of the valley we skirt the *Merced River* and pass near the foot of the **Bridal Veil Fall* (right, p. 511), while views of the *Virgin's Tears* and (farther on) of the *Yosemite Falls* (p. 509) are obtained to the left. The road from Milton (see p. 450) comes in from the N. and runs along the other (N.) bank of the river. — 67 M. *Yosemite Village* (4000 ft.), with the *Sentinel Hotel* (\$2½) and the office of the Guardian of the Valley (p. 509). The stage arrives here about midday.

The ****Yosemite Valley** ('full-grown grizzly bear'; pron. 'Yosémity') is a gorge or cañon on the W. slope of the Sierra Nevada, traversed by the *Merced River* and enclosed by rocky and almost vertical walls. The nearly level floor of the valley is 8 M. long and about 3850 ft. above sea-level, while the enclosing walls are 3000-5000 ft. higher. The width between the walls varies from ½ M. to 2 M. At several points huge waterfalls are precipitated over the face of the rocky walls into the valley below. The park-like floor of the valley is carpeted with fine flower-studded grass and freely sprinkled with beautiful trees and shrubs, while the emerald-green Merced flows through it in alternate reaches of calm and turmoil.

The principal features of the Yosemite, and those by which it is distinguished from all other known valleys, are: first, the near approach to verticality of its walls; second, their great height, not only absolutely, but as compared with the width of the Valley itself; and finally, the very small amount of *talus* or *débris* at the base of these gigantic cliffs. These are the great characteristics of the Yosemite, throughout its whole length; but, besides these, there are many other striking peculiarities, and features both of sublimity and beauty, which can hardly be surpassed, if equalled, by those of any mountain valleys in the world' (*Whitney*).

The visitor standing on the floor of the valley sees no outlet in any direction and feels curiously separated from the rest of the world. Per-

haps no single valley in Switzerland combines in so limited a space such a wonderful variety of grand and romantic scenery.

The formation of the valley was at first ascribed to erosion or even to glacial action; but Prof. Whitney has proved to the satisfaction of most authorities that it was most probably due to a mighty convulsion of nature, caused by the subsidence of a limited area, marked by lines of 'fault' or fissure, crossing each other nearly at right angles. The ragged masses of rock that fell into the chasm were gradually covered up by the action of the river, ultimately producing the smooth level floor that the valley now presents. The geological formations are entirely granitic.

The Yosemite Valley was first seen by white men, so far as is known, in 1851, when a small party of soldiers came upon it suddenly when in pursuit of some Indians. The first settlement was made in 1857, and other buildings soon followed as the attractions of the Valley became known and tourists began to pour in. In 1864 an Act of Congress was passed, handing the valley itself, with the adjacent territory for a distance of about 2 M. all round it, to the State of California for the purposes of a *State Park*. This park is managed by the Governor and a board of State Commissioners, and these are represented on the spot by the Guardian of the Valley, whose office is near the Sentinel Hotel. The State Park is enclosed by the *Yosemite National Park*, which takes in the entire watershed of the rivers of the valley. About a score of the so-called *Digger Indians* (Shoshonians), who originally occupied the valley, still survive. They are one of the lowest types of red men, supporting themselves partly on roots and acorns and partly by fishing.

Perhaps the most striking object in the valley, to most visitors, is the cliff known as ***El Capitan**, which rises prominently as the N.W. buttress of the cañon. It is not by any means the highest part of the cañon-walls, though rising to a height of 3300 ft. above the floor of the valley, but produces its effect by its dominating position, its majestic form, the bareness and verticality of its face, and the narrowness of the valley in front of it. It has two faces, one looking W. and the other S., which join each other almost at right angles. The summit cannot be reached without a long and arduous journey, which is seldom undertaken. The *Ribbon Fall* or the *Virgin's Tears*, about 2000 ft. high, descends over the cliffs just to the W. of El Capitan. It is a beautiful fall in the early part of the season, but loses most of its water in summer. — To the E. of El Capitan are the fine peaks named the **Three Brothers**, the highest of which, known also as *Eagle Peak* (3000 ft. above the valley), is a favourite view-point (see p. 512). — In the recess to the E. of Eagle Peak, near the centre of the valley, are the ****Yosemite Falls**, where the creek of that name descends to the valley in three leaps, with a total height of 2500 ft. The *Upper Fall* has a vertical

descent of 1436 ft.; the *Middle Fall* consists of a series of cascades with a total descent of 626 ft.; while the *Lower Fall* is 400 ft. high. This is the highest waterfall in the world with anything like the same body of water. At the top it is about 35 ft. wide. Seen at its best, this fall is certainly one of the grandest features of the valley; but it dwindles considerably as the season advances. A splendid ice-cone, 500 ft. high, forms at the foot of the Upper Fall in winter. Trail to the top, see p. 512. — The projection to the E. of the Yosemite Falls is named **Yosemite Point** (3220 ft.) and commands a splendid view (comp. p. 512). The ravine to the E. of this is known as *Indian Cañon*. The wall of rock on the other side of Indian Cañon is known as the **Royal Arches**, so called from the semi-circular cavities on its front. Adjoining these, at the angle formed by the beginning of the Tenaya Cañon (see below), rises the *Washington Tower* or *Column* (2005 ft.), which is itself a cub or spur of the huge *North Dome* (3725 ft.).

We have now, in our survey, reached the head of the Yosemite Valley proper, where it splits into the three narrow cañons of the *Tenaya* or N. fork of the Merced to the N., the *Merced* proper in the middle, and the *Illilouette* or S. fork of the Merced to the S. (comp. p. 513). To the S. of the Tenaya Cañon, opposite the N. Dome and forming the E. terminus of the Yosemite Valley, rises the singularly shaped ****South or Half Dome** (4972 ft.), which disputes with El Capitan the place of the most remarkable single feature of the valley. 'It strikes even the most-casual observer as a new revelation in mountain forms; its existence would be considered an impossibility if it were not there before us in all its reality; it is an unique thing in mountain scenery, and nothing even approaching it can be found except in the Sierra Nevada' (*Whitney*). The **Half Dome** was first ascended in 1875 by a man named Anderson, who scaled the summit on the S.E. side by means of a rope attached to pegs driven into the rock. Anderson's ladder has, however, been allowed to go to ruin, and at present the top of the Half Dome is inaccessible. — To the S.W. of the Half Dome, at the angle formed by the Tenaya and Merced Cañons, rises *Grizzly Peak*, a grim, wooded, and nearly inaccessible summit.

Passing over the Merced Cañon, which enshrines the *Vernal* and *Nevada Waterfalls* (see p. 511), we now come to the S. wall of the Yosemite Valley, the first (easternmost) peak of which is ****Glacier Point** (3350 ft.), the most frequently visited, and in many respects the finest, of the points of vantage from which to view the valley. A description of the trail to it and the view from it is given at p. 511. — For about 1 M. to the W. of Glacier Point the wall of the valley runs nearly in a straight line and is almost wholly covered with talus or debris. Above this, but a little back from the valley, rises the **Sentinel Dome** (4270 ft., 8120 ft. above sea-level), which commands a very extensive view (see p. 511). The front-wall just

mentioned ends on the W. in the ***Sentinel Rock** (3155 ft.), the most conspicuous rock on the S. face of the valley. Its ascent is not difficult or dangerous for climbers. — Next in order, as we proceed towards the W., come the slender *Cathedral Spires* (2970 ft. and 2950 ft.), adjoined by the imposing ***Cathedral Rocks** (2660 ft.), opposite El Capitan. Over the W. side of the lower part of these rocks pours the ***Bridal Veil Fall**, which some visitors deem the finest in the valley. It has a clear vertical fall of about 630 ft., with a width of 50-70 ft. The name is derived from the effect on it by the wind, which often makes it flutter like a white veil. Like most of the other falls, it loses much of its grandeur as the summer advances. A fine rainbow is generally visible on this fall between 4 and 6 p.m.

The above enumeration includes most of the principal points in the valley itself or in its immediate walls. Below follows a short description of the routes leading to these as well as to other points not included in the valley itself but generally visited thence. The hotel (p. 508) is taken as starting-point. For information as to horses, guides, and so on, comp. p. 506.

(1.) ***LOWER ROUND DRIVE** (12-20 M.), on the floor of the Valley (fare \$2½ each; incl. Mirror Lake and Cascades, \$3½). This drive gives a very good general idea of the Yosemite wonders, but, as most of them are almost as well seen on entering the valley by stage, it need not be taken by those whose time is limited. The points visited include the foot of the *Yosemite* and *Bridal Veil Falls* (p. 509 and above), and it is well to time the drive so as to see the afternoon rainbow on the latter (see above). The *Cascade Falls* are about 3½ M below the Bridal Veil Fall, beyond the limits of the valley proper. *Mirror Lake* (see p. 512) is about 3 M to the N.E. of the hotel.

(2.) **GLACIER POINT** (5½ M.; horse \$3). The Glacier Point trail (well-made but somewhat trying on horseback for those liable to giddiness, esp. in descending; quite safe and not very steep for walking) begins near the foot of Sentinel Rock, not far from the hotel. The trail ascends the steep face of the cliff in zigzags. *Union Point*, about two-thirds of the way up, commands a fine view. Close by is the singular *Agassiz Column*. ***Glacier Point** (3350 ft.; 7200 ft. above the sea), marked by a flagstaff, where an iron rail has been fixed between two rocks, commands a splendid view of most of the valley, the floor of which lies almost perfectly sheer below us. A little way from the edge of the cliff is the small and unpretending, but fairly comfortable *Glacier Point Hotel* (\$3, meal \$1), the porch of which commands a magnificent "View of the Merced Cañon, with the Vernal and Nevada Falls and the Cap of Liberty, the Half Dome, and the *High Sierra*, including (named from right to left) Mt. Starr King, Red Mt., Gray Mt., Mt. Clark, Mt. Ritter (in the extreme distance), Mt. Florence, Mt. McClure, Tenaya Peak, and Mt. Lyell (p. 513). Nearly every evening a fine display of fireworks (announced by a horn) is given here by throwing burning brands, etc., over the cliff (well seen from below). — Glacier Point is accessible, for those who can neither ride nor walk up the trail, by carriage-road from *Chinquapin* (see p. 508), but this roundabout journey takes about a day (5½ hrs each way) instead of 4-5 hrs. It may also be reached viâ *Nevada Fall* (comp. p. 512), and those who spend the night here may return by this route. Many visitors now ascend from the Sentinel Hotel to Glacier Point and drive thence to (14 M.; 5½ hrs.) Wawona (p. 507). — The top of **Sentinel Dome** (p. 510) is about 1¼ M. from Glacier Point and is easily reached thence on foot or horseback (no extra charge). From Sentinel Dome the excursion may be extended to the (1½ M.) so-called *Fissures* (horse 75 c. extra).

(3.) **VERNAL AND NEVADA FALLS** (5½ M.; horse \$3) The excellent *Anderson Trail*, which as far as Vernal Fall is so broad and easy as to give no cause for nervousness, begins about 2¼ M. to the S.E. of the Sentinel Ho. and winds along the flank of *Grizzly Peak* (p. 510), with the beautiful *Merced River* rushing downwards on the right. A good distant view is obtained (right) of the *Illilouette Falls* (p. 513) About ¼ M. below the Vernal Fall we cross the river by a bridge, which commands one of the best views of it. Beyond the bridge is the so-called *Register Rock*, where the trail forks, the left branch leading to the flat *Lady Franklin Rock*, near the foot of the Vernal Fall. The (2 M.) Vernal Fall has a vertical descent of 350 ft., with a width of 70-80 ft. Behind rises the picturesque *Cap of Liberty* (7060 ft. above sea-level). We may now ascend to the top of the fall by a series of iron *Ladders*, which climb the face of the rock close to the fall (water-proof desirable), but this route should not be tried by any except those of steady head. From *Register Rock* (see above) the trail (now narrower and steeper) makes a wide sweep to the right before reaching the top of Vernal Fall, where the flat rock, with a natural parapet, permits an approach to the verge of the water. Just above is the beautiful *Emerald Pool*. The trail recrosses the river about halfway between the top of the Vernal Fall and the bottom of the Nevada Fall. Above the bridge is the *Diamond Cascade* and below it is the *Silver Apron*. We now soon obtain a fine view of the (¾ M.) superb *Nevada Fall*, which has a slightly sloping descent of about 800 ft. and ranks with the Yosemite Falls. — Many visitors turn at the foot of the Nevada Fall, but those who have time and strength should certainly follow the steep trail to (¾ M.) the top of it.

The trail to the *Little Yosemite* and *Cloud's Rest* (see below) diverges to the left before we reach the bridge above the falls.

Beyond the bridge the trail goes on, along the flank of *Mt. Starr King* (9080 ft.), to (12 M.; 17 M. from the hotel; horse \$6) *Glacier Point* (see p. 511); and this route is recommended to those who have time. The night may be spent at *Glacier Point Hotel* (see p. 511). This trail crosses the *Illilouette* just above the falls (p. 513).

(4.) **EAGLE PEAK and YOSEMITE FALLS** (6-6½ M.; horse \$3). To reach *Eagle Peak* trail, a steep but well-made bridle-path (not so dizzy as the *Glacier Point* trail), we cross the bridge behind the *Sentinel Hotel* (p. 508), turn to the left a little farther on, and cross the bridge over the creek descending from the Yosemite Fall. The trail diverges to the right about ¼ M. beyond the last-named bridge, ascends round and up the ledges adjoining the Falls cañon, and then descends to (1½ hr.) a hitching-place near the foot of the *Upper Yosemite Fall* (see p. 509) We clamber over the rocks and approach as near the fall as we care to penetrate through the clouds of spray, gaining an overwhelming impression of the stupendous power and volume of this marvellous waterfall. Continuing to follow the trail, we keep to the left, where a path to the right diverges to the top of the Yosemite Fall, and again to the left at the next fork, where the path to the right leads to *Lake Tenaya* (comp. p. 513). The *View from Eagle Peak* (p. 509) extends farther to the W. than that from *Glacier Point* and includes some peaks of the High Sierra. — If time allows, a visit to the top of the Yosemite Fall (see above) should certainly be combined with this trip. The *View* of the fall from above is as impressive in its way as that from below. A large boulder about 12 yds. below the bridge above the fall, on the left (E.) side of the stream, shakes or rather jerks perceptibly at irregular intervals, as may be felt by leaning against it. This movement is probably caused by the water of the fall entering some cavern far below. The trail crossing the above-mentioned bridge leads to *Yosemite Point* (p. 510), which commands a view similar to that from *Eagle Point*. If time and strength do not allow a visit to both, the top of the Yosemite Falls and *Yosemite Point* should be preferred to *Eagle Peak*.

(5.) **MIRROR LAKE** (carr. \$1), a small piece of water, about 4 M. to the N.E. of the *Sentinel Hotel*, at the mouth of the *Tenaya Cañon*, is visited for its wonderful reflections of the North and South Domes and *Mt. Watkins*. Its surface is generally most unruffled early in the morning, and visitors

usually go to see the sun rise in it over the Half Dome (about 8 a.m. in summer). The reflections are also good by moonlight.

(6.) CLOUD'S REST (9-10 M.; horse \$5). This excursion is one in high favour among the more energetic visitors to the Valley. It is accomplished in one day (12 hrs.). The new trail is good and not difficult, but the upper part of it is apt to be buried in snow in the early part of the season. — From the hotel to the point where the trail diverges from that to the top of the Nevada Fall, see p. 511. A little farther on the trail to the so-called *Little Yosemite* (6000 ft.) diverges to the right from the Cloud's Rest trail. Cloud's Rest (6060 ft. above the valley and 9910 ft. above the sea) commands a splendid *View of the walls of the Yosemite Valley and of the High Sierra. Immediately to the S.W. is the Half Dome; to the N., across the Tenaya Cañon, rises Mt. Watkins (see below). Among the most prominent peaks of the Sierra (named from N. to S.) are Mt. Hoffman, Tenaya Peak (with Tenaya Lake below it), the Cathedral, Mt. Dana, Mt. Gibbs, Mt. Lyell, Mt. Clark, and Mt. Starr King (p. 512).

(7.) FALLS OF THE ILLILOUETTE (2½ M.). The falls of the Illilouette or *Tuhulaweah* may be reached by a somewhat rough scramble up the cañon of the Illilouette, opening to the S. of the Merced Cañon (comp. p. 510). The total height is about 600 ft.; the main fall is 400 ft. high. They are also passed on the trail from Nevada Fall to Glacier Point (see p. 512). Most visitors will content themselves with the distant view from the Vernal Fall trail (see p. 512). A good echo is returned from *Echo Wall*, in the Illilouette Cañon.

(8.) Mt. Watkins (4400 ft. above the valley and 8200 ft. above the sea) rises on the N. side of the Tenaya Cañon and is sometimes ascended from the N.

Among the longer excursions in the High Sierra, which can be made by those who prolong their stay in the Yosemite Valley, are those named below. Guides are necessary in all cases, and a little experience in mountain-climbing is desirable for some of the ascents. Rough accommodation for the night can sometimes be procured, but in other cases camping out is necessary. — About 12 M. to the N. of Yosemite is the *Cañon of the Tuolumne (four syllables), a stream which, in this part of its course, runs nearly parallel with the Merced and is very attractive from the beauty and variety of its waterfalls and the grandeur of its overhanging cliffs. The upper part of the cañon can be easily reached on horseback by the *Virginia Creek Trail*, which leaves the trail to Mono Lake at Tenaya Lake (see below) and soon brings us to the first and uppermost of three picturesque groups of cascades, with a total descent of 2000 ft. within 1½ M. About 20 M. lower down is the *Hetch-Hetchy, a remarkable counterpart of the Yosemite, on a somewhat smaller scale, but closely resembling it in its main features, with similar high cliffs and fine waterfalls. It cannot easily be reached by descending the cañon, but is approached by a side-trail leaving the Milton road at *Crocker's Station*, where guides and animals may be procured. Those who make this trip must provide their own food and camp-accommodation. — *Lake Tenaya*, 18 M. from the Sentinel Hotel, viâ the Eagle Peak trail (comp. p. 512), lies near the head of the Tenaya Cañon, in the midst of a grand mountain amphitheatre. *Tenaya Peak*, on its E. side, may be ascended with little difficulty. Beyond this lake the trail (to the left the Virginia Creek trail, see above) goes on to the (5 M.) *Tuolumne Meadows (8500 ft.), at the head of the Tuolumne Cañon (see above). The scenery here is very fine. Near the head of the Meadows are the (5 M.) *Soda Springs*, a favourite camping-ground for those making the ascent of Mt. Dana or Mt. Lyell (see below). The trail goes on to (20 M.) *Mono Lake*. — *Mt. Dana* (13,225 ft.; there and back, 3-4 days), the loftiest peak near the Yosemite, commands a very extensive view and is generally ascended from Soda Springs (see above; no particular difficulty). — *Mt. Lyell* (13,217 ft.) is more difficult and should not be attempted except by experts (3-4 days). It is also ascended from Soda Springs. — *Mt. Hoffmann* (10,870 ft.; *View) may be ascended from Tenaya Lake in half-a-day. — Visitors to the *Little Yosemite* (see above) may go through the gorge at its head, passing the *Silver Chain Cascade*, to the *Lost Valley* (there and back in one day).