

painted by the waters of the numberless warm and hot springs, which ooze out from the fissures, into a variety of tints and tones; dazzling white, intense red-purple, saffron, yellow, etc., and fairly bewildering the eye at first by their singularity and grandeur." The canon is moreover fringed in some places with rows of basaltic pillars, quite regular in form, from twenty to thirty feet high, and standing without crack or flaw in regular tiers one above the other.

The great Falls are more imposing still. They are "a broad, evenly deep sheet of clear ice water, leaping down at one bound four hundred and fifty feet." Unbroken at any point or division, they rush over the ledge a vast curtain, "as of swift, foaming lace." These are the Lower Falls, the upper being just the height of Niagara, or one hundred and fifty feet, and but half a mile distant from the other. Thus, with that short space, the stream makes a descent of six hundred feet. Not far away is the Yellowstone Lake, which has a shore line of nearly a hundred and sixty miles, and a depth, in some places, of over four hundred feet. The water in the lake is icy cold, and it is frequently "thick and green with millions of algae." It is well stocked, like the river, with trout, some of great size; and it contains other finny monsters, the like of which is unknown elsewhere. But the chief marvel of this section would seem to be the "Geysers of the Fire-hole Basin." These are at the head waters of the Madison, and in magnitude and extent of area reduce the boiling spring of Iceland to complete insignificance. Mr. Elliott writes:

"I have stood by a crater, and have seen a column of hot (boiling) water six feet in diameter, ascend with a single bound, vertically, to the height of 200 feet—pause there for an instant, and fall to its siliofied basin in a thousand watery streams; and a million prismatic drops. This was repeated ten or fifteen minutes, then all would be quiet; the water of the cistern became as still as a mill pond, and apparently as

inactive. This geyser, which is one of the many, we have named the Grand. It plays at irregular intervals of twenty-four to thirty hours, for from ten to twenty minutes.

Another named by Doane 'Old Faithful,' plays at intervals of only an hour apart, throwing up an immense steady column at an elevation of 150 feet.

There are fifty geysers and over a thousand boiling springs, according to this authority, within fifty miles of each other, and it is evident that those objects must rank as among the most remarkable physical wonders of nature.

These, however, are but a portion of the strange sights to be seen in the Yellowstone Valley. By way of still further enforcing their memory of the expedition, the party were favored, not long since, with an earthquake, the character of which is verified by several witnesses who, at the time of the shock, were fifteen miles apart. We have heard enough now to be satisfied that the region in question must be among the most wonderful of this wonderful central continent of ours, and to suspect that it deserves, in this wise, absolute preëminence. Prof. Hayden's official report, which, we hope, will not long be delayed, will enable us to arrive at conclusions more positive.