

within 40 miles of Laramie, valued at \$2,250,000. In 1867, there couldn't be found in the same section 500 head of all kinds—all told. Agriculture is not profitable, yet they have demonstrated that some of the hardy vegetables can be cultivated with success on the bottom lands.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**—Crystal Lake is about 40 miles to the westward of Laramie. Sheep Mountain—one of the peaks in the Rocky Mountain range—rears its head for 12,000 feet above the sea. Should the tourist desire to visit the place, he will find the road beyond the plains rough, and the ascent toilsome. Before beginning the ascent of the mountains we enter one of the grandest forests in the country. For ten miles we toil on through the forest, which is so dense that the sunlight hardly penetrates, and the silence is almost oppressive. Bears, mountain lions, and the mountain sheep range here; their haunts, until lately, never having been invaded by the pale face. Emerging from this gloom into the fair sunlight, we find ourselves on the highest point of the mountain, from which we can look over piles of fleecy clouds floating below us to other ranges far beyond. Peak on peak, ridge on ridge, they ascend, until their snow-clad heights are lost in the distance, or in the vast blue dome above.

Looking downward, we behold a vast succession of dark ridges and grey peaks through the rifts in the fog-like vapor floating above them. These dark ridges derive their sombre hue from the forests of pine, which extend for miles and miles in all directions. To the east we see a deep indentation in the mountains, which is Laramie Plains. Across this apparently narrow line, the rugged masses of the Black Hills rise in their grandeur, their black crests closing the scene.

Turn now to the immediate landscape. Here is a green, grassy lawn, dotted with tiny flowers, of varieties such as we never before beheld, or ever read of, and right before us, in the center of this lawn, lies a circular lake nearly a mile wide; its clear, soft, cold water glistening in the rays of the sun, and reflecting, as in a mirror, every object on its banks, transforming them into many fantastic shapes, as the breeze lovingly kisses the silver surface, lifting it into little ripples.

The scene is one of unsurpassed loveliness immediately around you while the view in the distance is grand, aye, sub-

lime—beyond the power of words to depict. Whoever visits this place cannot fail of being impressed with its wondrous beauty, and his mind will take newer and clearer impressions of the power of "Him who hath created all things."

**THE SNOWY RANGE**—the great backbone of the continent—is covered with snow for a great part of the season; the highest peaks ever wearing their white robes, even when the passes are covered with flowers. This renders them very conspicuous and easily discerned at a great distance. Hence the term "Snowy Range."

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTRY**—In general descriptions we speak of Laramie Plains as including all the country lying between the western base of the Black Hills and the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains—a grand park, similar in formation to the great parks of Colorado, though of much less altitude. These "parks" are immense bodies of table lands, enclosed by the peaks and ridges of the surrounding mountains, sheltered by them from the cold winds, watered by them from the never-failing streams which flow from gorges and canyons among these peaks, from which the snow is never absent. The average elevation of the Laramie Plains or park is about 6,500 feet, though where Laramie City stands it is more. The Black Hill ranges of the Rocky Mountains form the eastern and northern boundary of the "Plains." This range extends nearly due north to Laramie Peak, about 150 miles, thence west, terminating in the Seminole Mountains. On the south, the park or plain is bordered by the Rocky Mountains, which here reach an elevation of from 10,000 to 13,000 feet above the sea—snow-capped always. To the altitude of from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, these slopes are covered with dense pine forests.

In the mountains to the westward, in North Park, Douglass, and other creeks, rich mines of gold, silver, copper, and nearly all the known metals have been discovered, and in several cases, worked to advantage. The Keystone is reported to be a very rich mine, the owners of which are taking out the ore and piling it up, to await the arrival of a stamp mill which will be put up in a few months. Undoubtedly there are vast regions tributary to Laramie equally well-stored with mineral deposits, that have never been prospected or visited by the white men.

On the northwest from out the Elk