



"LET EVERY STEP BE AN ADVANCE."

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Notes from our Log Book.

Friday, June 10.—The first Yo-Semite party reached Clark's, and visited the Mariposa grove of big trees. Our second division—a party of thirty-eight persons—left San Francisco at 4 P. M. in a special car, over the Western Pacific Railroad, for Stockton, and slept at the Yo-Semite Hotel.

Saturday, June 11th.—The first division rode from Clark's ranch to the 12-mile house, where they found a good dinner awaiting them, after which they proceeded five miles further, to Inspiration Point, where they received their first grand view of the Yo-Semite Valley. From here they descended by a serpentine trail, nearly two miles into the bed of the valley, and after riding along the base of the Bridal Veil Fall, in four miles further distance they reached Black's hotel, where most of their number took lodgings. Four members of the excursion party visited Sentinel Dome and Graciar Point. Meantime, the second division was crossing the San Joaquin Plains by four-horse Concord covered wagons; dined at Roberts' Ferry, at the crossing of the Tuolumne river, and lodged at Snelling's.

Sunday, June 12.—Our first division remained quietly in the valley, where, at 5 P. M., an excellent service was conducted by Rev. E. G. Porter. The second division continued on to Hornitos, dined at Mariposa, visited the Fremont

quartz mill, and slept at White & Hatch's ranch. This evening sharp lightning and heavy thunder commenced before sundown, and continued, with torrents of rain, throughout the night; an occurrence said to have been unknown before for eighteen years, at this season, in that locality.

Monday, June 13.—Nearly all the members of the first division visited Vernal and Nevada Falls. The thunder-storm in the valley was grand and imposing. The second division left White & Hatch's by stage, and rode to within four miles of Clark's, where they mounted horses, and accompanied by nine mounted guides and five pack animals, they reached his ranch in season for trout and venison at noon. In the afternoon they rested, and in the evening sat around a monster camp-fire until bedtime.

Tuesday, June 14th.—A portion of first division left for San Francisco by way of Mariposa, another larger portion by way of Coulterville, and others by way of Big Oak Flat. Fourteen returned by way of Calaveras Big Tree grove, while the balance remained and made excursions to Mirror Lake and various parts of the valley. The second division remained at Clark's whence they made an excursion of four miles and spent the day among the Big Trees of the Mariposa grove, over four hundred in number. They are known among naturalists as the *Arbor Vitæ Sequoia Giganta Washingtonia*, and are a species of cedar. Their bark is nearly two feet thick, and the wood of a deep pink color. Some of the party attended a rodeo and witnessed the lassoing of wild cattle, while others did some good trout fishing in the south fork of the Merced River.

Wednesday, June 15.—The last portion of the first division (two members excepted) left the valley for San Francisco

by the Coulterville route, and reached the hotel at Bower Cave before dark. The second division rode from Clark's, and entered the valley at Inspiration Point. The larger portion took lodgings at Hutchings' Hotel, while some put up at Leidig's and a few at Black's.

Thursday, June 16th.—Many members of the second division visited the Vernal and Nevada Falls. Others united with the Nickerson-Howes division, and visited the lower Yo-Semite Fall and the strawberry patches, where berries were found to be fully ripe and in almost fabulous quantities. Members of the first division continued on their way to San Francisco by the several routes they had taken.

Friday, June 17th.—Members of the second division visited Mirror Lake about sunrise, and found the reflection perfect as could be desired. In the afternoon, three members of the party, accompanied by a guide, reached a point about four hundred feet above the base of the upper Yo-Semite Fall, a feat seldom before accomplished. Others visited various places of interest in the valley, while seventeen left for San Francisco, and rested this night at Tam-arack Flat.

Saturday, June 18th.—The balance of the second division, with all others who had remained behind, (excepting our artist,) left the Yo-Semite Valley soon after sunrise, and rode thirty-two miles on horseback to Pilot Knob, where our carriages were in waiting, and conveyed us eight miles to Bower Cave, by the new road now building into the valley. Many of our ladies expressed regrets at parting with horses which had become favorites with them, and all felt they had accomplished the trip with less fatigue than they had anticipated. While this portion of the party lodged at Bower Cave, the advance slept at Coulterville, and the first Yo-Semite division were safely at San Francisco.