

**THE TOP OF THE CONTINENT;
THE STORY OF A CHEERFUL
JOURNEY THROUGH OUR
NATIONAL PARKS**

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The top of the continent; the story of a cheerful journey through our national parks by Robert Sterling Yard

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ROBERT STERLING YARD

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From an autochrome photograph by Charles J. Soren

Yellowstone Falls

THE TOP OF THE CONTINENT

THE STORY OF A CHEERFUL JOURNEY
THROUGH OUR NATIONAL PARKS

BY

ROBERT STERLING YARD, 1861-

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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TO
MARGARET

FOREWORD

OUR national parks are really one part of our national system of education—supreme examples of the workings of nature. They tell the history of the making of the continent, where the primal forces may yet be seen in action. They give a liberal education in beauty and in nobility. Men cannot think meanly in the presence of the canyons and cliffs, the mountains and the cataracts, of our parks. Men must think in large terms when standing face to face with nature in her noblest moods.

Mr. Yard loves these playgrounds, natural museums and living laboratories of a fortunate people, and I join in the hope that they may become more really known as great schools.

FRANKLIN K. LANE.