Preface

MY ORIGINAL PURPOSE in gathering the information presented in this book was to provide accurate descriptions of the more important printed source materials for a history of Yosemite, the Big Trees, and the High Sierra. But as the work progressed it seemed desirable to supplement the bibliographical descriptions with notes on the origin of the respective books and pamphlets and to expand the work still further by comments on significant portions of their contents. This led to a good many references to publications that for one reason or another did not require the full descriptions accorded to the selected titles. The result is a compendium of information designed to be helpful to those who desire to write about the subjects covered and to serve as a useful reference book for librarians and collectors.

The basis of selection of the twenty-five titles has been in part their rarity and unusual character, and in part their originality and importance as contributions to knowledge of the subjects with which they are concerned. It may be asked, Why has the list been closed at twenty-five titles? The limitation is, of course, an arbitrary one; but in examining other titles for possible inclusion I found very few that seemed to fulfill both requirements—unusual character and important contents. Those who wish to search further into the sources of history in this field will naturally consult as guides such well-known books as *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*, by Russell, *Big Trees*, by Fry and White, and perhaps my own compilation, *Place Names of the High Sierra*. These scarcely need bibliographical description and comment—at least so early in their young lives. The files of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* and *Yosemite Nature Notes* will also, of course, be consulted.

The whole category of technical books and papers on geology, botany, and natural history has been omitted from the present compilation.

These fields have their own lists, and the comments they require are quite different from those pertaining to the titles in the present list. Another exclusion is a geographical one: the region north of Yosemite National Park, including Lake Tahoe and the passes north and south of it. Although there are publications of importance and of bibliographical interest that concern this region, they seem to me to fall into a field of interest definitely outside of that of the present discussion.

In the presentation of the bibliographical descriptions I have not attempted to conform to any standardized style. Nevertheless, I believe that the methods used will serve the purpose of identification. Abbreviations have been generally avoided, since the list is not long enough to require the maximum of economy in that respect. In measuring the copies observed I have used a fair approximation of the height and width of the pages. The maps are measured from the outer printed borders or from the extremities of the printed matter, without regard to margins.

To the librarians and collectors who have generously assisted me by answering questions and by displaying or photographing their copies for me, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation. Most of them have been mentioned in the text.

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