

ponding back its waters into a lake that had eventually been converted into a meadow. But far more effective than the glacier-made dams had been those of the beaver. The extent to which the valley bottoms in this and the other mountain ranges of Western North America have been changed by the operations of this animal is almost incredible. In a single valley, for example, hundreds of acres are gradually submerged, and their cotton-wood or other tree-growth is killed. In this way the floor of the valley is cleared of timber. The beaver-ponds eventually silting up, become first marshes and then by degrees fine meadows. Riding along the stream we passed on its banks several groups of short stakes thrust into the ground and tied together so as to form a framework as if for low huts or wigwams. They were quite deserted, and had been so for some time. Dan told us they were constructed by the Indians for bathing purposes. Each of them is large enough to hold only one person at a time. When in use they are covered with skins, a fire is kindled inside and kept burning until a few stones placed in it are thoroughly warmed. The Indian or his squaw then creeps in, remains until perspiration has been induced, and finally dashes out into the stream below. It was curious to find this simple form of the sudatorium and frigidarium among the Utes in the wilds of the Far West.

It was now afternoon. We rested near an old beaver-dam, caught a few trout for supper, and crossing the valley began the ascent of its farther side. The point at which we recrossed the stream was considerably lower than that by which we had made our way in the morning. But I had taken my bearings when we were clear of the timber, and had no doubt we should strike into our previous route. The ascent was steeper, rougher, and more impeded with