

low, conical elevations of sinter, from each of which one or more tubular projections rise. It is from these irregular tube-like excrescences that the eruptions take place.

The term geyser is restricted to active openings whence columns of hot water and steam are from time to time ejected; the non-eruptive pools are only hot springs. A true geyser should thus possess an underground pipe or passage, terminating at the surface in an opening built

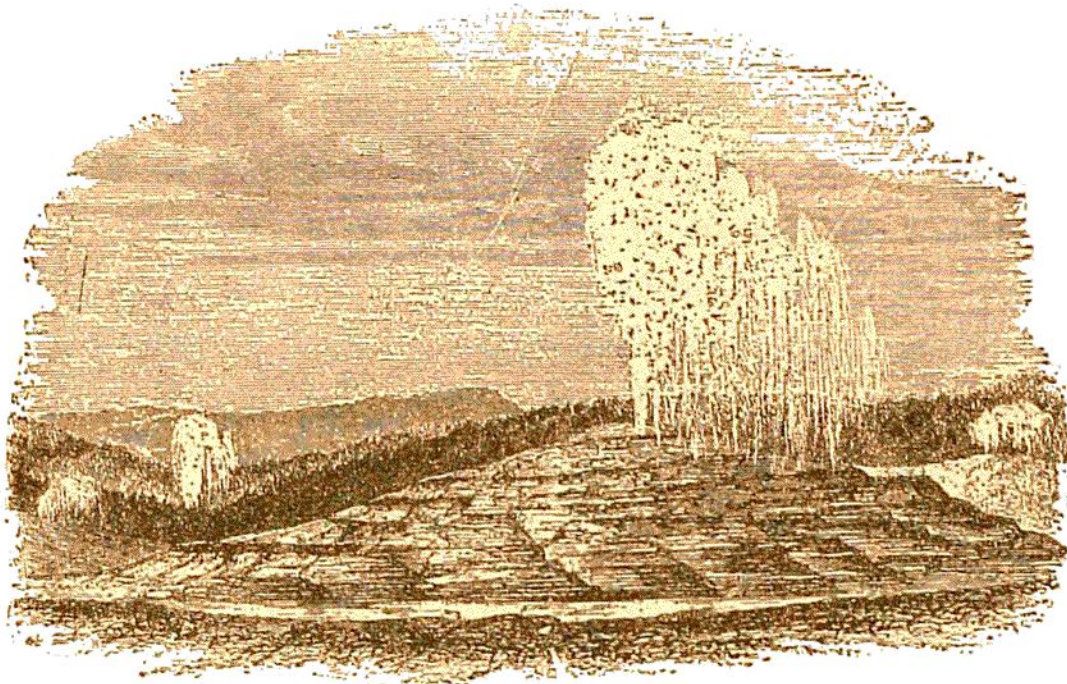


Fig. 52.—View of Old Faithful Geyser, and others in the distance, Fire Hole River, Yellowstone Park.

round with deposits of sinter. At more or less regular intervals, rumblings and sharp detonations in the pipe are followed by an agitation of the water in the basin, and then by the violent expulsion of a column of water and steam to a considerable height in the air. In the Upper Fire Hole basin of the Yellowstone Park, one of the geysers, named "Old Faithful" (Fig. 52), has ever since the discovery of the region sent out a column of mingled water and steam every sixty-three minutes or thereabout. The column rushes up with a loud roar to a height of more than 100