

Concours ENS Paris B/L 2022 – ANGLAIS

The Yosemite National Park was made October 1, 1890. For many years I had been crying in the wilderness, "Save the forests!" but, so far as I know, nothing effective was done in the matter until shortly before the park was organized. In the summer of 1889, I took one of the editors of the *Century Magazine* out for a walk in Yosemite and in the woods and bowlder-choked cañons around it; and when we were camped one day at the Big Tuolumne Meadows, my friend said, "Where are all those wonderful flower gardens you write so much about?" And I had to confess - woe's me! - that uncountable sheep had eaten and trampled them out of existence. Then he said, "Can't something be done to restore and preserve so wonderful a region as this? Surely the people of California are not going to allow these magnificent forests, on which the welfare of the whole State depends, to be destroyed?" Then a National Park was proposed, and I was requested to write some articles about the region to help call attention to it, while the *Century* was freely used for the same purpose, and every friend that could be found was called on to write or speak a good word for it. (...) And in a little over a year from the time of our first talk beside that Tuolumne camp-fire the bill organizing the park passed Congress, and a troop of cavalry was guarding it.

But no sooner were the boundaries of the park established, than interested parties began to try to break through them. Last winter a determined effort was made to have the area of the park cut down nearly one-half. But the Sierra Club and other good friends of the forests on both sides of the continent made a good defense, and today the original boundaries are still unbroken.

The battle we have fought, and are still fighting, for the forests is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong, and we cannot expect to see the end of it. I trust, however that our Club will not weary in this forest well-doing. The fight for the Yosemite Park and other forest parks and reserves is by no means over; nor would the fighting cease, however much the boundaries were contracted. Every good thing, great and small, needs defense. The smallest forest reserve, and the first I ever heard of, was in the Garden of Eden; and though its boundaries were drawn by the Lord, and embraced only one tree, yet even so moderate a reserve as this was attacked. And I doubt not, if only one of our grand trees in the Sierra were reserved as an example and type of all that is most noble and glorious in mountain trees, it would not be long before you would find a lumberman and a lawyer at the foot of it, eagerly proving by every law terrestrial and celestial that that tree must come down. So we must count on watching and striving for these trees, and should always be glad to find anything so surely good and noble to strive for.

John Muir, "The National Parks and Forest Reservations" (November 23, 1895)