Number Two of the

Tribune Series *of the* Greatest Scenic Wonders *of* America

"The Petrified Forest" *by* Moran

THIS continent covers an expanse so vast and its great natural wonders are so many, so varied and so beautiful, that the patriotic, country-loving American who would surround himself with the choicest reproductions of its extraordinary natural phenomena would set for himself a life task.

The New York Tribune, in keeping with its efforts to develop the educational and finer phases of life through its Colorgraphic, presents in this issue the second of a striking series of the acknowledged great natural wonders of the country. Leading critics, patrons of art and geographical authorities were consulted. Their choice, practically unanimous, is the basis for the presentation of this series.

WITHIN the stretch of Arizona's Painted Desert of brilliant hues lies one of the marvels of the land, the sixty square miles of Petrified Forest.

There lie preserved for all time fallen tree monarchs, millions of years old, turned to rocks. Mammoth trunks, sometimes five feet in diameter and fifty feet in length, or cracked smoothly into blocks, are transformed into everlasting stone, beautiful in quality and coloring—quartz, agate, chalcedony, jasper and exquisite opal, infinite in the variety of delicate tint and rich shading.

The method of petrification, by which the giant trees became rock, was one of the strange alchemies of nature. Probably the wash of water from hot mineral springs rich in silica was the cause. The chemical, permeating the tissues of the plant, acted as a hardening agent, preserving the original structure and detail of the tree with astonishing perfection of detail.