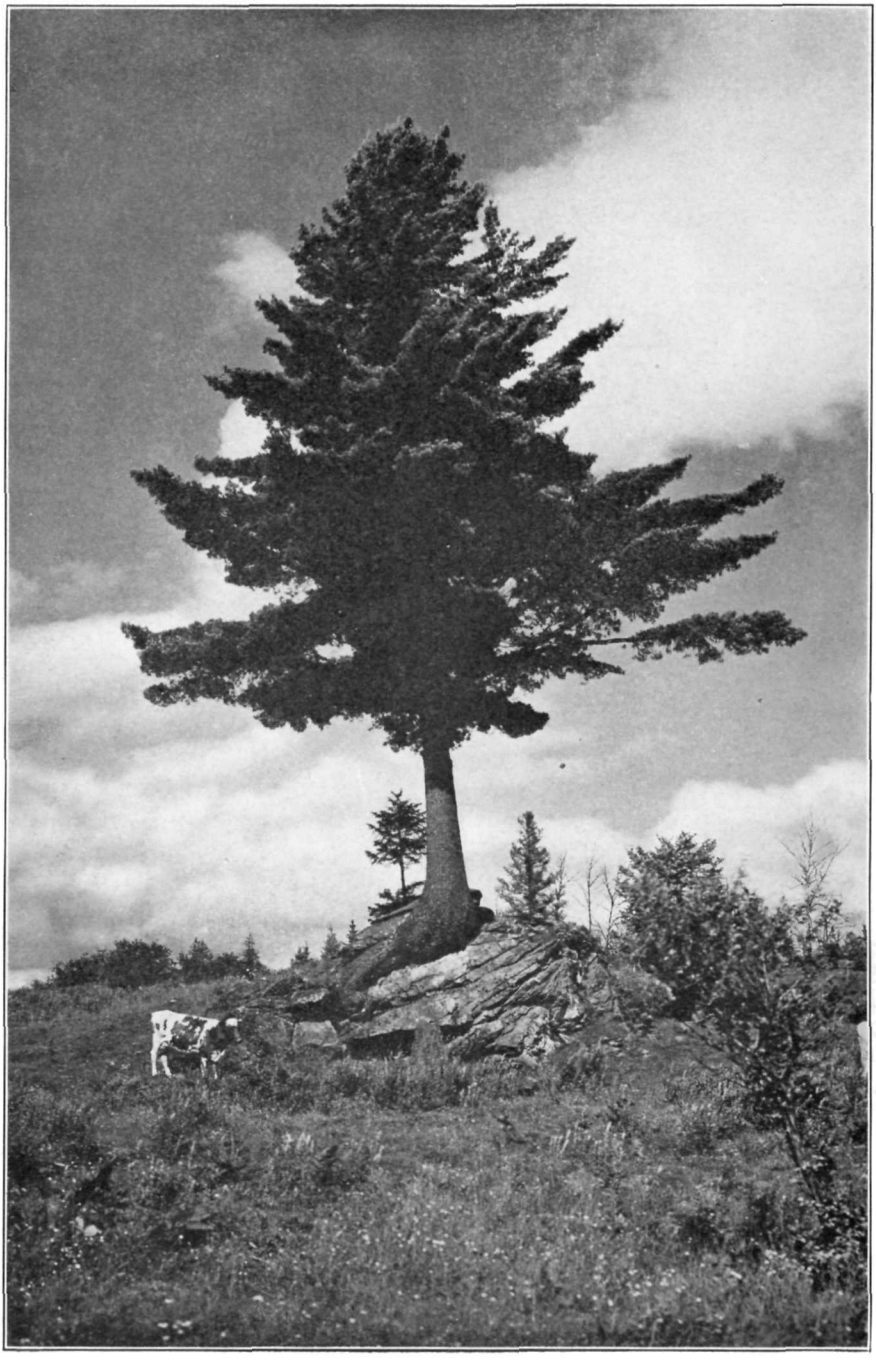
SIEUR DE MONTS PUBLICATIONS

XVIII

An Old Account of Mt. Washington
A Word upon its Insect Life
A Word on Mt. Katahdin

PUBLISHED BY
THE WILD GARDENS OF ACADIA
BAR HARBOR, MAINE



The Wild Gardens of Acadia were incorporated under the conviction that absolute sanctuaries in which the wild life of a region — plant, bird or animal — can dwell securely and perpetuate itself under its original conditions, are the only means by which such life can be preserved to-day with any approximation to its natural wealth and fullness. Such a sanctuary, though in its early stages yet, has now been established on the coast of Maine by the creation of the Sieur de Monts National Monument upon Mount Desert Island.

Lying in the midst of one of the most interesting and naturally prolific life-provinces in the world, that of eastern Maine and early French Acadia, it is singularly fitted by its mountainous character and ocean-tempered air to shelter—in the broadest way a single area can—its region's life, while its position on the great bird-migration route of the Atlantic shore gives it unique importance in relation to any comprehensive scheme for bird protection.

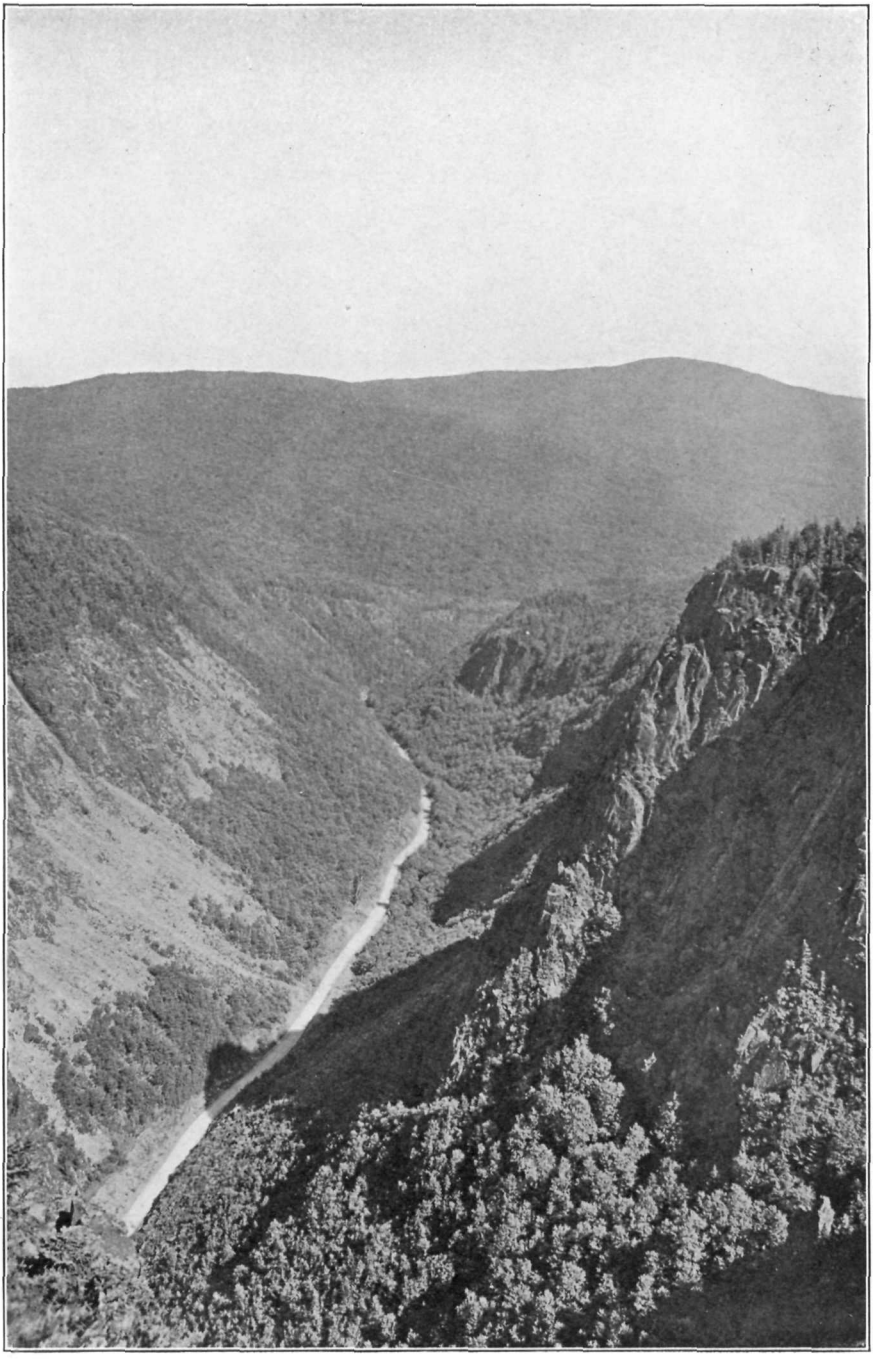
To the west of this, a distant landmark to the men who sailed between Acadia and Boston in the 17th and early 18th centuries, lie the White Mountains, now included in a National Forest. These two are linked together now as forming the only National possessions of biologic interest—marine biology apart — or landscape interest yet created to the east of the Mississippi and the north of Washington.

The earliest account of the White Mountains next to those of the Rev. Jeremy Belknap and the Rev. Manasseh Cutler (1784), and of Dr. Timothy Dwight, President of Yale (1797), the latter elsewhere quoted, is that of Dr. Jacob Bigelow of Boston — a distinguished botanist as well as one of the leading physicians of his time — which follows.

THE WILD GARDENS OF ACADIA

CHARLES W. ELIOT, *President*

GEORGE B. DORR, *Secretary*



DIXVILLE NOTCH FROM TABLE ROCK

AN OLD ACCOUNT OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

JACOB BIGELOW, 1816

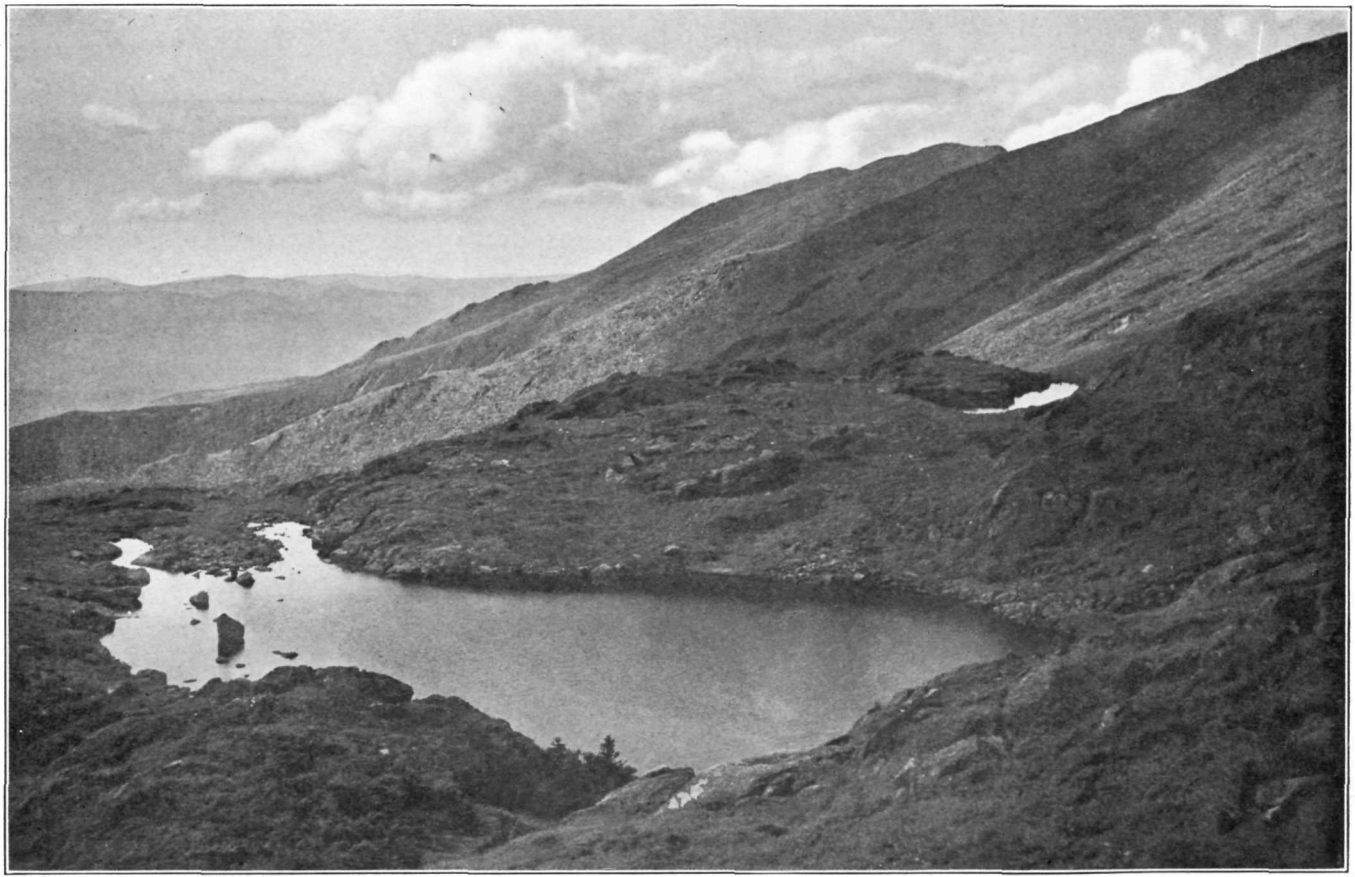
President American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1846 to 1863

In the United States, exclusive, or possibly inclusive, of Louisiana,* the highest point or ridge of land is undoubtedly that of the White Mountains in New Hampshire. From the earliest settlement of the country, these mountains have attracted the notice of the inhabitants and of mariners along the coast, by the distance at which they are visible and the whiteness of their appearance during three-quarters of the year. They were for a long time the subject of fabulous representations; the Indians had a superstitious dread of them, and travelers who occasionally ascended their summits returned with exaggerated reports of the difficulty and distance, as well as of the strange productions found on the more elevated parts of their surface.

The earliest account of an ascent of the White Mountains is given in Governor Winthrop's Journal, and appears to have taken place in the year 1642. This account is curious, at least for its antiquity.

"One Darby Field, an Irishman, living about Piscat, being accompanied with two Indians, went to the top of the White Hill. He made his journey in eighteen days. His relation at his return was, that it was about 160 miles from Saco, that after 40 miles travel, he did for the most part ascend; and within 12 miles of the top, was neither tree nor grass, but low savins, which they went upon the top of sometimes, but a continual ascent upon rocks, on a ridge between two vallies filled with snow, out of which came two branches of the Saco river, which met at the foot of the hill where was an Indian town of some 200 people. Some of them accompanied him within 8 miles of the top, but durst go no further, telling him that no Indian ever dared to go higher, and that he would die if he went. So they staid there till his return, and his two Indians took courage by his example and went with him. They went divers times through the thick clouds for a good space, and within 4 miles of the top they had no clouds but very cold. The top of all was plain, about 60 feet square. On the north side was such a precipice as they could scarcely discern the bottom.

* See Note A, page 33.



LAKE OF THE CLOUDS

They had neither cloud nor wind on the top, and moderate heat. All the country about him seemed a level, except here and there a hill rising above the rest, and far beneath them. He saw to the north, a great water which he judged to be 100 miles broad, but could see no land beyond it. The sea by Saco seemed as if it had been within 20 miles. He saw also a sea to the eastward which he judged to be the gulph of Canada; he saw some great waters in parts to the westward, which he judged to be the great lake Canada river comes out of. He found there much Muscovy glass, they could rive out pieces 40 feet long, and 7 or 8 broad. When he came back to the Indians, he found them drying themselves by the fire, for they had a great tempest of wind and rain. About a month after, he went again with five or six of his company, then they had some wind on the top, and some clouds above them, which hid the sun. They brought some stones which they supposed had been diamonds, but they were most chrystal.''
—Winthrop's Journal, p. 247.

The relation of Darby Field may be considered as in the main correct, after making reasonable deductions for the distance, the length of the Muscovy glass, and the quantity of water in view, which it may be suspected has not been seen by any visitor since his time.

Within the last forty years the White Mountains have been repeatedly ascended and accounts of their productions and phenomena published. The object of this paper is to detail such observations as were made by a party from Boston who visited them in the beginning of July of the last summer.

These mountains are situated in latitude about 44.15 north and are distant about 150 miles from Boston. Their Indian name according to Dr. Belknap, was Agiocochook.

Our approach to them was made from the northwest, commencing at the town of Lancaster, a village situated on the Connecticut river, 25 miles from their base. From this town a road has been cut through a gap of the mountains to Portland, constituting the principal outlet of the Coos country. This road takes the course of the Israel's river, a branch of the Connecticut, passing between the Pliny Mountains on the left and the Pondicherry mountain on the right.

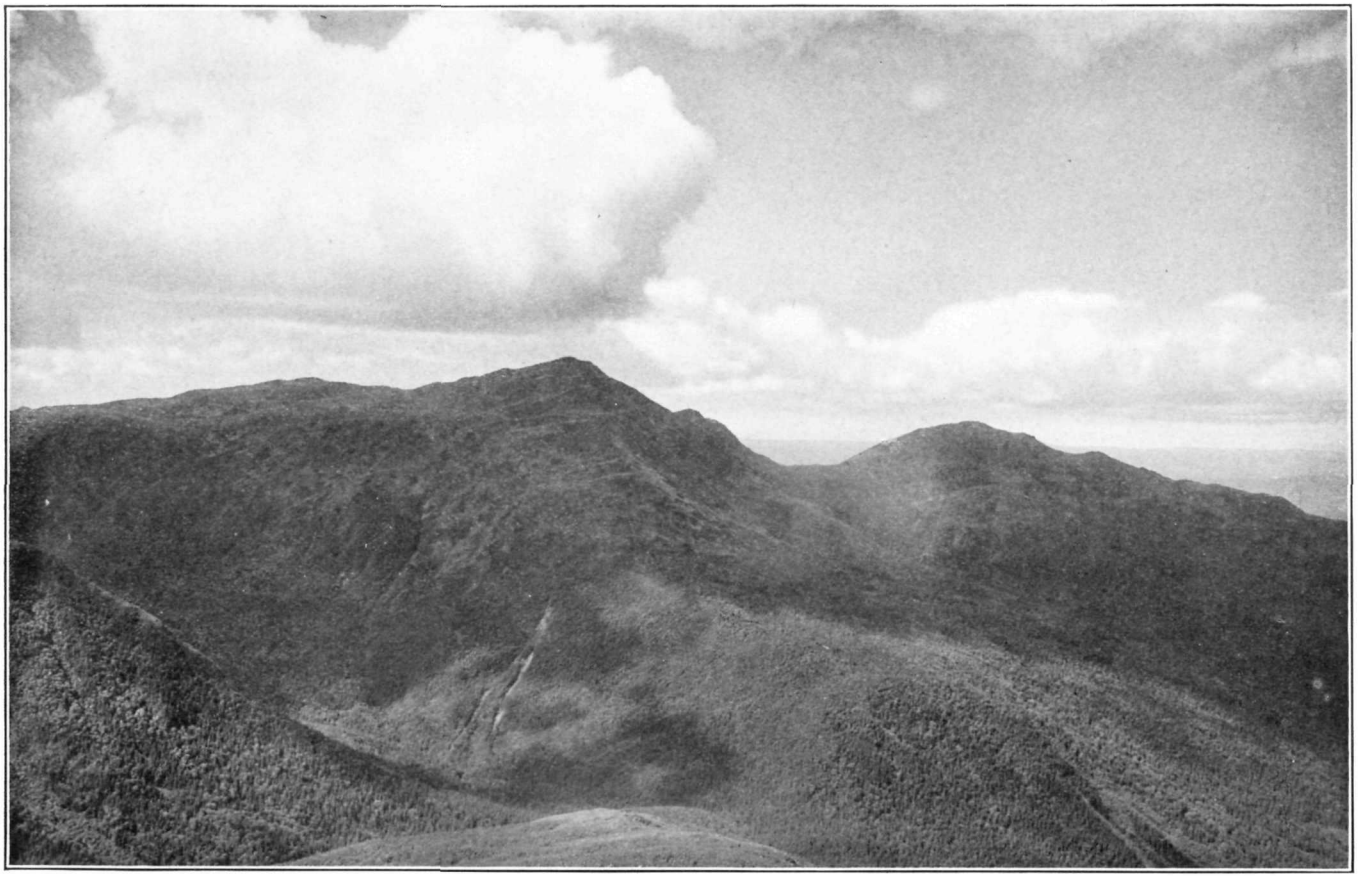
From Lancaster the road passes through Jefferson (formerly Dartmouth) and Bretton Woods to the Notch, running over the foot of the Pondicherry mountain in its course.

CARTER NOTCH

It lies for most of the way through thick woods, but rarely enlivened with the appearance of cultivation. At Playstead's house, 13 miles from their base, the White Hills presented the appearance of a continued waving range of summits, of which it was difficult to select the highest. At Rosebrooks, 4½ miles from the Notch, the view of them was very distinct and satisfactory. We could now clearly discern the character of the summits, five or six of which were entirely bald and presented the appearance of a grey and ragged mass of stones, towering above the woods with which the sides and base were clothed.

Between Rosebrooks and the Notch is a plain, or rather a swamp, the waters of which pass off in different directions, partly to the Ammonoosuck, a branch of the Connecticut, and partly by an opposite course to the Saco. After crossing several brooks running toward the former, we came to another stream, the water of which was so sluggish that it required some time to become satisfied that it was actually flowing in the opposite direction. This stream has its origin in a pond of one or two acres, situated near the road, and having no other inlet or outlet. This pond appears to be the principal source of the Saco river.

The waters of this stream being collected from several sources proceed directly toward the side of the mountain. At the point where to all appearances they must be intercepted in their course, there occurs one of the most extraordinary features of the place, well known by the name of the Notch. The whole mountain, which otherwise forms a continued range, is here cloven down quite to its base, affording a free opening to the waters of the Saco, which pass off with a gradual descent toward the sea. This gap is so narrow that space has with difficulty been obtained for the road, which follows the course of the Saco through the Notch eastward. In one place the river disappears, being lost in the caves and crevices of the rocks, and under the shelves of the adjoining precipice, at length reappearing at the distance of some rods below. The Notch gradually widens into a long narrow val-



MT. ADAMS AND MT. MADISON FROM THE SIDE OF MT. WASHINGTON

ley, in the lower part of which is situated the town of Bartlett.

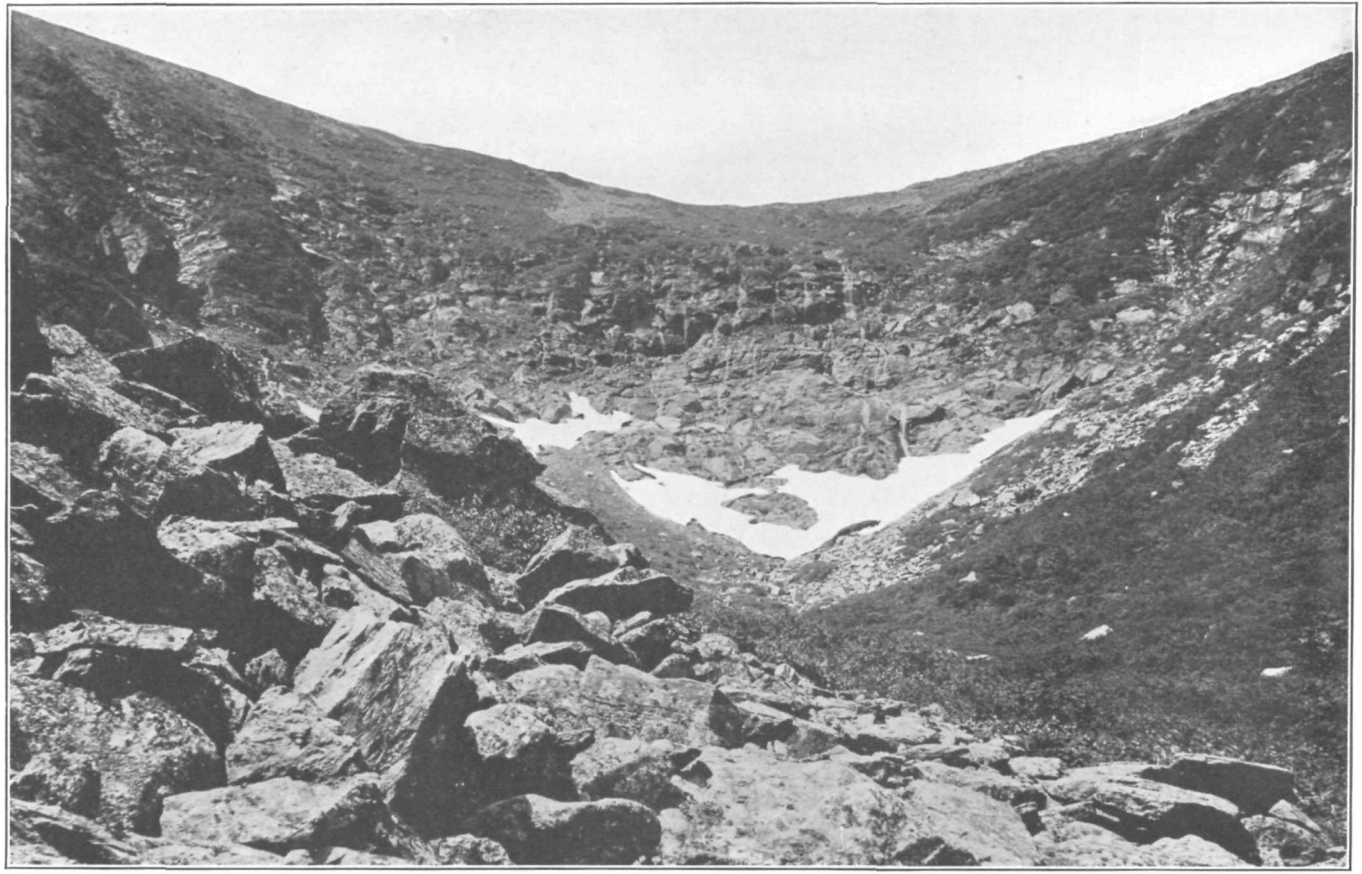
There is no part of the mountain more calculated to excite interest and wonder than the scenery of this natural gap. The crags and precipices on both sides rise at an angle of great steepness, forming a support or basement for the lofty and irregular ridges above. One of the most picturesque objects in our view was a cliff presenting a perpendicular face of great height and crowned at its inaccessible summit with a profusion of flowering shrubs.* For many miles below the commencement of the Notch the eye meets on both sides a succession of steep and precipitous mountains, rising to the height of some thousands of feet, and utterly inaccessible from the valley below.

Several brooks, the tributaries of the Saco, fall down the abrupt declivities, forming a succession of beautiful cascades in sight of the road.

The White Hills have been ascended by various routes, from their different sides. The course which is usually considered as attended with the least difficulties is that which commences at the plain of Pigwacket, at present the town of Conway, and follows the course of the Ellis River, a northern branch of the Saco having its origin high in the mountain.

The place of leaving the road, to follow the track of this stream, is in the town of Adams, about 20 miles from the summit of the highest part of the mountain. Of this distance seven or eight miles may be rode over on horseback; the rest must be performed on foot. After leaving the borders of cultivation, our course lay through thick woods, on a level or with a gentle ascent, not much encumbered with an undergrowth of bushes, for six miles. The walking was tolerably good, except the circumstance of being obliged once or twice to ford the streams. Our encampment for the night was made at the mouth of New river, a principal branch of the Ellis. This river takes its name from the recency of its origin, which happened in October, 1775. At this time, during a great flood,

*Rhodora Canadensis in full flower June 20.



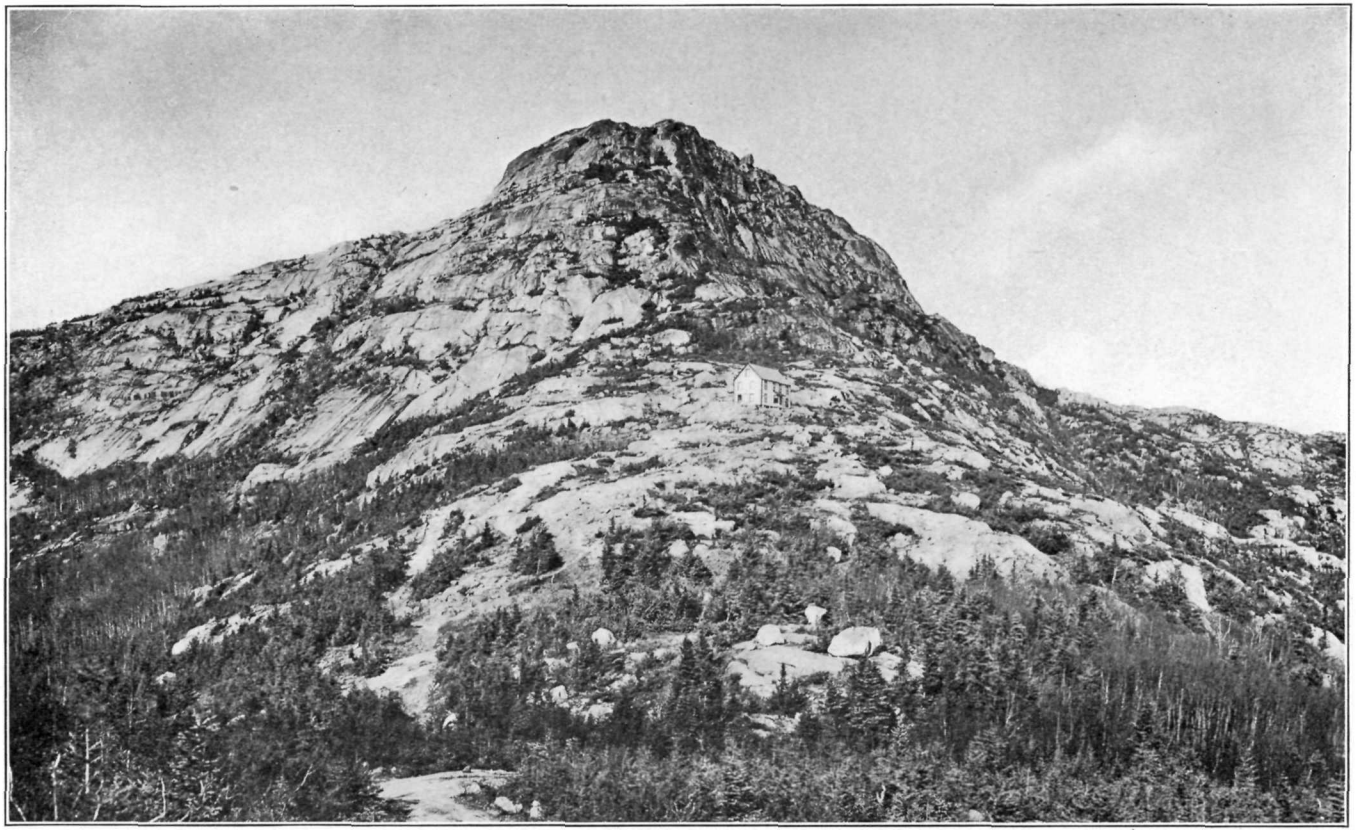
TUCKERMAN'S RAVINE

that took place in consequence of heavy rains, a large body of waters, which had formerly descended by other channels, found their way over the eastern brink of the mountains and fell down toward the Ellis, carrying the rocks and trees before them in their course, and inundating the adjacent country. By this freshet the banks of the Saco were overflowed, cattle were drowned, and fields of corn were swept away and destroyed. Since that period, the New river has remained a constant stream, and at the place where it descends the last precipice, forms a splendid cascade of 100 feet in height.

From this encampment, which was seven miles from the top of the mountain, we proceeded the next day, (July 2) two or three miles by the side of Ellis River, on a gradual ascent, occasionally encumbered by the trunks of fallen trees. We now left the Ellis for one of its principal branches, called Cutler's river, leading directly towards the principal summit. After climbing by the side of this stream for a considerable distance, the trees of the forest around us began to diminish in height, and we found ourselves at the second zone or region of the mountain. This region is entirely covered with a thick low growth of evergreens, principally the black spruce, and silver fir, which rise to about the height of a man's head, and put out numerous, strong, horizontal branches, which are closely interwoven with each other, and surround the mountain with a formidable hedge a quarter of a mile in thickness. This zone of evergreens has always constituted one of the most serious difficulties in the ascent of the White Hills. The passage through them is now much facilitated by a path cut by the direction of Colonel Gibbs, who ascended the mountain some years since.

On emerging from this thicket, the barometer stood at 25, 93, giving our elevation above the sea, at 4, 443 feet. We were now above all woods, and at the foot of what is called the bald part of the mountain. It rose before us with a steepness surpassing that of any ground we had passed, and presented to view a huge, irregular pile of dark, naked rocks.

We crossed a plain or gentle slope, of a quarter of a mile, and



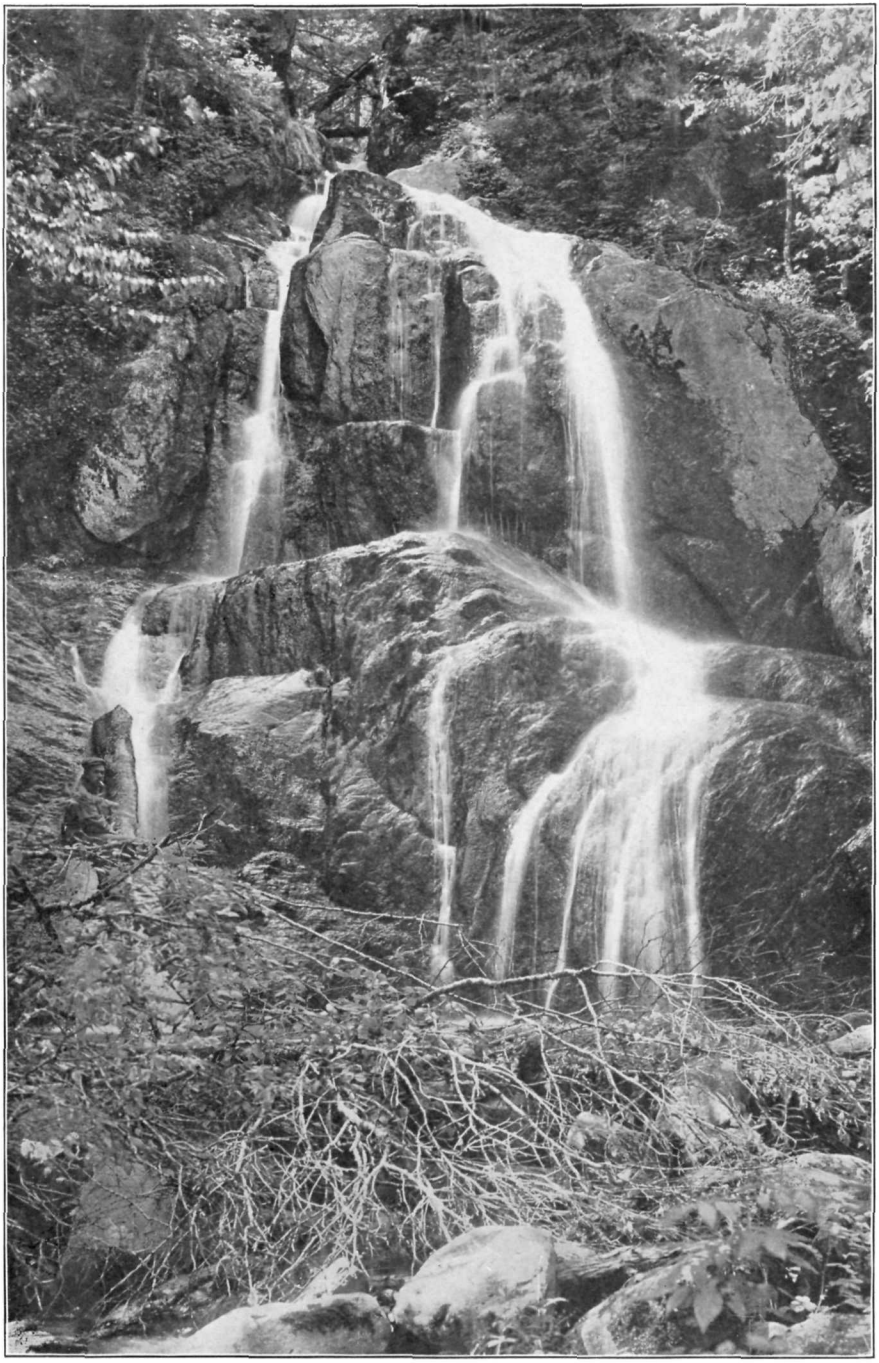
PEAK OF CHOCORUA

began to climb upon the side. There was here a continued and laborious ascent of half a mile, which must be performed by cautiously stepping from one rock to another as they present themselves like irregular stairs winding on the broken surface of the mountain. In the interstices of these rocks were occasional patches of dwarfish fir and spruce, and beautiful tufts of small alpine shrubs, then in full flower.

Having surmounted this height we found ourselves on a second plain. This, like the first, was covered with withered grass, and a few tufts of flowers. Its continuity is interrupted by several declivities, one of which we descended to our left, to reach a brook that crosses it here from the rocks above. There remained now to be ascended only the principal peak, the one designated in Winthrop's Journal, by the name of the Sugar Loaf, and in Belknap's New Hampshire, by the name of Mount Washington. This we accomplished in half an hour, by climbing the ridge to the north of it, and walking on this ridge to the summit.

The day of our visit was uncommonly fine, yet the atmosphere was hazy, and our view of remote objects indistinct. The Moosehillock, one of the highest mountains of New Hampshire, situated in Coventry, near the Connecticut, was visible on the south. The Kyarsarge, double-headed Mountain, and several others were in full view at the east. The country around in almost every direction, is uneven and mountainous. Its appearance is described by Josselyn in his "Rarities of New England," published in 1672, who says that the country beyond the mountains to the northward, "is daunting terrible, being full of rocky hills, as thick as mole hills in a meadow; and clothed with infinite thick woods."

Our anticipations were not realized in regard to several phenomena we had been taught to expect at the summit. The state of the air was mild and temperate, so that the overcoats which we carried up in expectation of extreme cold, were left at the foot of the last ascent. The thermometer stood at 57° Fahr. on the summit at 12 o'clock, and on the same day at Conway, 25 miles distant, on the plain below, it was at 80°.



The snow lay in patches of an acre in extent upon the sides, but appeared to be rapidly dissolving. We were not conscious of any material alteration in the density of the atmosphere, as neither sound nor respiration were perceptibly impeded. Instead of an absence from these barren regions of animal and vegetation life, we found a multitude of insects, buzzing around the highest rocks; every stone was covered with lichens, and some plants were in flower in the crevices within a few feet of the summit.

The ascent from our encampment at the mouth of New river, including stops, had employed us six hours and a half. The descent from the summit to the same place occupied about five hours. We left on the mountain our names and the date, inclosed in a bottle and cemented to the highest rock.

Parce, viator,
Cui fulmina parcent
Hoc fragile monumentum
Lemuel Shaw,
Nathaniel Tucker,
Jacob Bigelow,
Franciscus C. Gray,
Franciscus Boott,
Bostonienses,
Die Julii 2do. A. D. 1816,
Monte Agiocochook superato,
Hic reliquerunt.

HERMIT LAKE AND TUCKERMAN'S RAVINE

THE VEGETATION OF THE WHITE HILLS

JACOB BIGELOW, 1816

The vegetation of the White Hills has been divided with propriety, into three zones. That of the common forest trees; that of dwarf evergreens; and that of alpine plants.

The woods, which extend from the base up the sides to the height of about 4,000 feet from the sea, consist of the Rock-maple (*Acer saccharinum*), which is the most abundant tree, the Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), the Silver-fir (*Pinus balsamea*), the Hemlock (*Pinus Canadensis*), the Black and White-spruce (*Picea nigra and alba*), the White-pine (*Pinus strobus*), the Beech (*Fagus ferruginea*), the Black, Yellow and White-birch (*Betula lenta, lutea, and papyracea*). The undergrowth was composed principally of the Viburnum lantanoides, the Acer montanum and striatum, and Sorbus Americana. Under our feet was the Oxalis acetosella beyond every other species of plant; Dracena borealis; Cornus Canadensis; Gaultheria hispidula, etc.

Where the common forest trees terminate, the second zone of the mountain immediately commences, the line between them being very distinctly drawn. This region consists of a belt of the Black-spruce and Silver-fir, rising to the height of seven or eight feet and putting out long, firm, horizontal or depending branches, so that each tree covers a considerable extent of ground. This mode of growths may be ascribed to two causes: 1st, The great length of time that the snow rests upon them, weighing down their branches, and confining them in an horizontal direction. 2nd, The extreme cold which probably prevails here in winter, and which is destructive to all vegetation that is not secured by being buried under the snow. Upon the ground under these evergreen trees, there were but few other vegetables. The only plants which I recollect in flower were the Houstonia coerulea, uncommonly large, and Cornus Canadensis.

Above the zone of firs, which terminates as abruptly as it begins, is a third or bald region wholly destitute of any growth of wood. The predominance of rocks on this portion leaves but a scanty surface covered with soil capable of giving root to vegetation; yet to the botanist this is by far the most interesting part of the mountain. Many of the plants of this region are rare, and not to be found in the region below. They are for the most part natives of cold climates and situations, such as are found in high latitudes, or at great elevations. Among them are natives of Siberia, of Lapland, of Greenland and Labrador. Vegetables of this race, usually known by the name of Alpine plants, have always been found difficult of cultivation. They are impatient of drought, and of both the extremes of heat and cold. During the severity of the winter in their native situations they are preserved from injury by the great depth of snow under which they are covered, which secures them from the inclemency of the air, while they partake the temperature of the earth below them. When the snow leaves them, which frequently does not happen till the middle of summer, they instantly shoot up with a vigor proportionate to the length of time they have been dormant, rapidly unfold their flowers and mature their fruits; and, having run through the whole course of their vegetation in a few weeks, are again ready to be entombed for the rest of the year under their accustomed covering of snow. These plants, notwithstanding the high and barren elevations at which they frequently grow, do not suffer for want of moisture, being constantly irrigated by the clouds which embrace them, and by the trickling of water over their roots from the eminences above.

The vegetation, in spots, extended quite to the top of the mountain. Diapensia Lapponica and Lycopodium lucidulum, the former in full flower, were growing within six feet of the summit. All the rocks were incrusted with Lichens, among which L. velleus is the one which predominates, and contributes essentially to the dark grey appearance of the mountain.

ANIMALS

The unsettled state of the country for some distance around these mountains and the many recesses and solitudes which they possess that are rarely visited by man render them still a resort for many of the original animals of the continent whose species have nearly disappeared from the more inhabited parts. The moose (*cervus alces*) still resides here, and we were told that upon the Pliny mountains, about twenty miles to the northwest, some of these animals are killed in the course of every winter. The bear (*ursus Americanus*) inhabits the woods about the base and sides of the mountain, where he is not unfrequently met with. The wolves (*canis lupus*), being gregarious, move in troops and are said to visit this part of the country once in three or four years. Several of them were killed last winter in Eaton, a town adjoining the mountains. The wolverene (*ursus luscus*), racoon (*ursus lotor*), porcupine (*hystrix dorsata*), and sable, the two latter in considerable numbers—are found in various parts of the forests; the wild-cat (*felis montana*) is occasionally killed here; the catamount (*felis concolor, s. couguar*), is at the present day seldom heard of.

Of birds, we saw but few. Most of our migratory land birds, choosing to share with man the fruits of his cultivation, are more frequently found about the abodes of civilization than in the solitude of the forest. In Bretton woods several wood-peckers were shot by our party, all of them very beautiful species, and among the rest picus tridactylus, remarkably distinguished from the rest of his family by the number of his toes. The partridge (*tetrao umbellus*), we frequently scared. This bird, as well as a species of plover or tringa, have been seen in the upper or bald part of the mountain.

The insects which we observed at the top of the mountain were as numerous and various as in any place below. Among them were species of Phaloena, Cerambyx, Coccinella, Buprestis, Cimex and Tenthredo. The most splendid of our native butterflies, Papilio Turnus, was fluttering near us while we remained on the summit.

A GLANCE AT THE INSECTS OF MT. WASHINGTON AND MOUNT DESERT

CHARLES W. JOHNSON.
Curator of the Museum, Boston Society of Natural History.

Mt. Washington has long been a favorite collecting ground for entomologists. Here, in a limited area, one can study the many conditions governing distribution. Traveling from the base to the summit one passes in a short time through surroundings representative of the temperate, boreal and arctic climates. The vegetation on and around the mountain is practically undisturbed, presenting admirable facilities for studying the natural conditions governing the relative abundance of injurious and beneficial insects. We find the forests as a whole in a splendid condition, with no serious destruction by insects. The collecting that has been already done shows that here "nature's balance" has not been disturbed by the inroads of civilization. Moths, saw-flies, wood-borers and other injurious species, while fairly abundant, are apparently kept within bounds by the great host of ichneumon and tachinid flies and other parasitic and predaceous insects. In fact, the abundance of beneficial species in proportion to the injurious ones is very noticeable, contrasted with other localities. Will not these large reservations in the near future furnish a most favorable place to study more fully the great economic problems of parasitism?

The upper portion of Mt. Washington is divided into two zones or areas, the alpine comprising the summit and parts above 5000 ft., and the sub-alpine, that from the timber line (about 4000 ft.) to the 5000 ft. contour. In the alpine area is found the White Mountain butterfly (*Oeneis semidea*) described by Thomas Say in 1828. This interesting butterfly belongs to a genus confined exclusively to the arctic and alpine regions.

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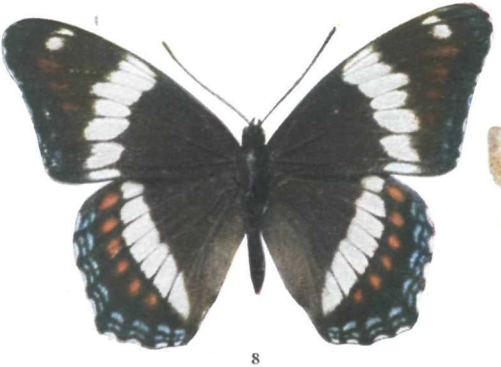

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10

11

12

3
Metanema determinata
Mt. Desert

2
Argynnis atlantis
Mt. Washington

1
Nepytia canosaria
Mt. Desert

6
Brenthis montinus
Mt. Washington

4
Œneis semidea
Mt. Washington

5
Caripeta divisata
Mt. Desert

9
Diastictis anataria
Mt. Desert

8
Basilarchia arthemis
Mt. Washington

7
Eustroma explanata
Mt. Desert

12
Aglais milberti
Mt. Washington

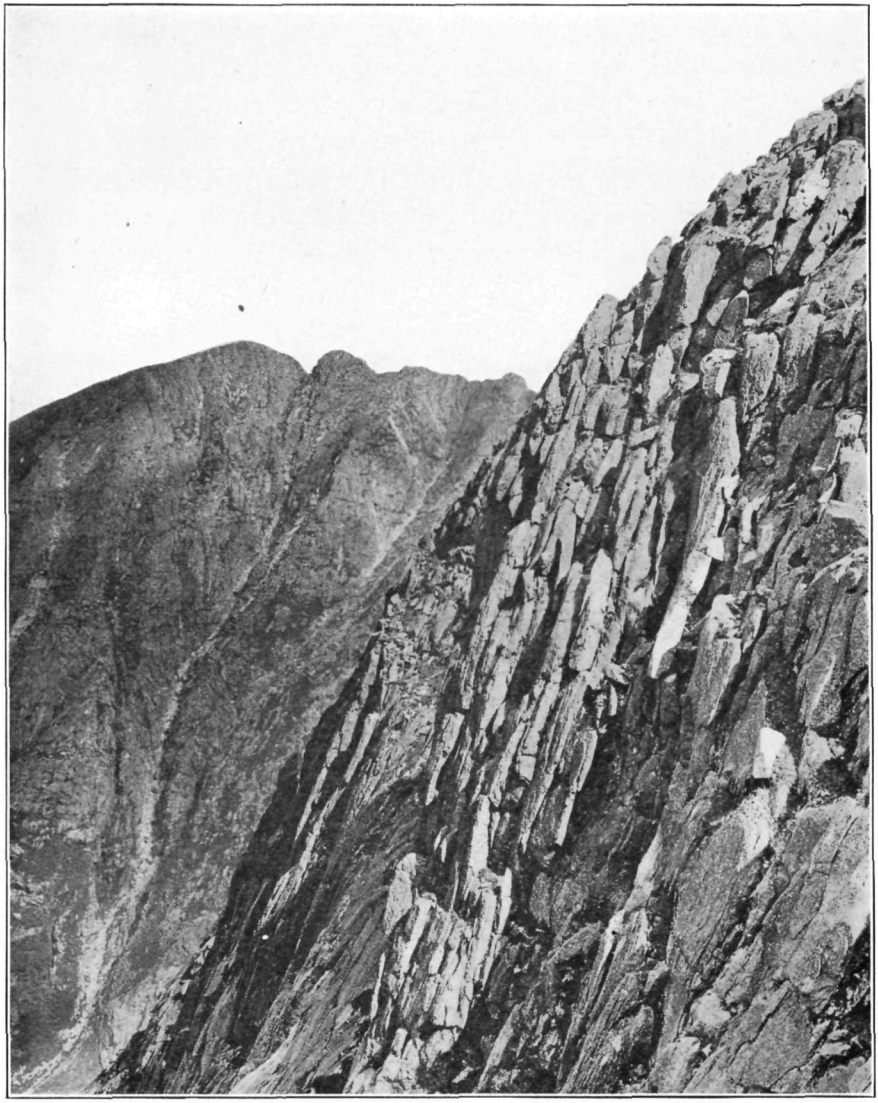
10
Polygonia faunus
Mt. Washington

11
Alcis sulphuraria
Mt. Desert

The under side of the wings so closely resembles the moss-covered rocks that when the insects are at rest they are scarcely discernible. Two little moths, *Anartas melanopa* and *A. schoenherri*, which frequent the rocky area, are also interesting examples of protective coloration. Under stones is found the large predaceous ground beetle, *Carabus chamissonis*. This species has also been captured on Mt. Desert. In the sub-alpine area are found the White Mountain Fritillary (*Brenthis montinus*) and the wingless grasshopper (*Podisma glacialis*). Generally distributed, but really living below the timber line, are numerous butterflies, including The Mountain Silver-spot (*Argynnis atlantis*), the Faun Anglewing (*Polygonia faunus*) and the rare *P. gracilis*, Milbert's Tortoise-shell (*Aglais milberti*), and the Banded Purple (*Basilarchia arthemis.*) A full account of these is given in Scudder's "Butterflies of the Eastern United States."

On warm days, when a strong breeze is blowing up the sides of the mountain, numbers of insects are carried to the summit, making it a most interesting collecting ground. It was here that Mrs. Annie T. Slosson made a remarkable collection of over 2000 species. A revised list of the insects of Mt. Washington is in course of preparation by the writer.

The insect fauna of Mt. Desert has been only partially studied, but the list contains many species common to Mt. Washington. The late Dr. Charles Sedgwick Minot made a most interesting collection of over 100 species of moths at Northeast Harbor during his last summer there. The collection contained several new Geometrids (*Span-worms*) and a number of species not recorded from the eastern United States since Packard published his monograph in 1876. There were also many rare and interesting Noctuids (*Owlet moths.*) This collection and the interesting flora of the island would indicate a rich and varied insect fauna, deserving careful and systematic study.



A BOLD CLIMB

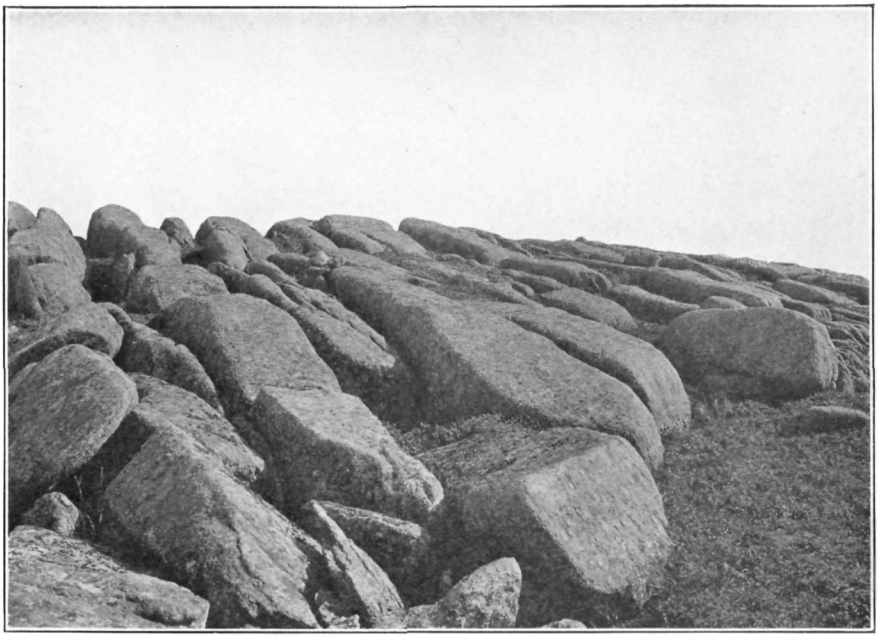
MT. KATAHDIN AS A FOREST RESERVATION

GEORGE BUCKNAM DORR

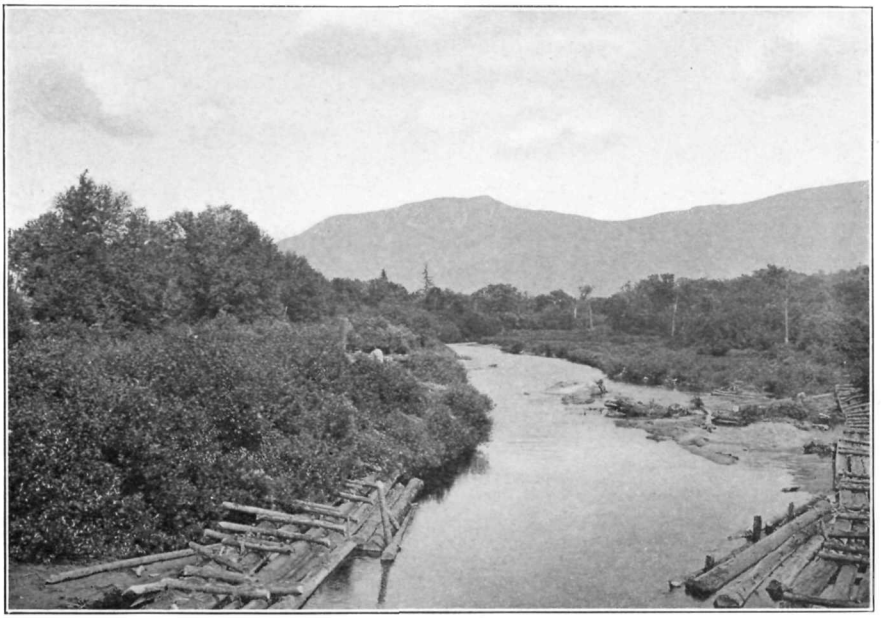
Northern New England, with Maine the greater part, is a natural forest region, rich in lakes and streams, rugged, mountainous and beautiful. In it and the immediately adjoining portions of New York and Canada the Appalachian forest attains at once its greatest density and northern bound.

Three centuries ago, when the first Acadian and Plymouth settlements were made, this forest was the most extensive, the richest in species, and probably the most ancient temperate zone forest in the world. The earliest fossil records—leaf and branch — of the broad-leaved, deciduous trees, such as the Sassafras and Fig, the Tulip tree, Magnolia, Willow, Oak and Maple, are found — washed down — in the Potomac formations of Maryland and Virginia and the New Jersey clays. And already they resemble modern forms, showing long previous development in some related region whence they spread — that lying to the north and east most probably, deeply eroded since and partly sunk beneath the sea. Europe, swept bare to the Alps of all but arctic vegetation by the great Ice-invasions of the Glacial Epoch, retained at the beginning of the historic period scarce half the wealth of woodland forms in genera and species which the Appalachian forest still preserves in direct inheritance from those early times.

NOTE: The most important advance, in its consequences, ever made perhaps in the development of life since the first gathering of cells into organic form is that of the rise of the Angiosperms or Flowering Plants, which, by the new food supply they brought, made possible in turn the development of the higher Animals. This took place—the evidence strongly indicates—along the northeastern coast of North America, the region of New York, New England and early French Acadia, an ancient land already, with a temperate climate and a vast temperate region to its north which sent down into it new forms of plants and animals, while it was isolated by the ocean then upon its western side as well as on its eastern. There, apparently, in long seclusion while earlier types of vegetation still prevailed and giant saurians and other reptiles roamed the world, the new plant forms which were to revolutionize its life developed through their early stages, although all trace of them has vanished since with the surface which they dwelt on.



ON KATAHDIN'S SUMMIT



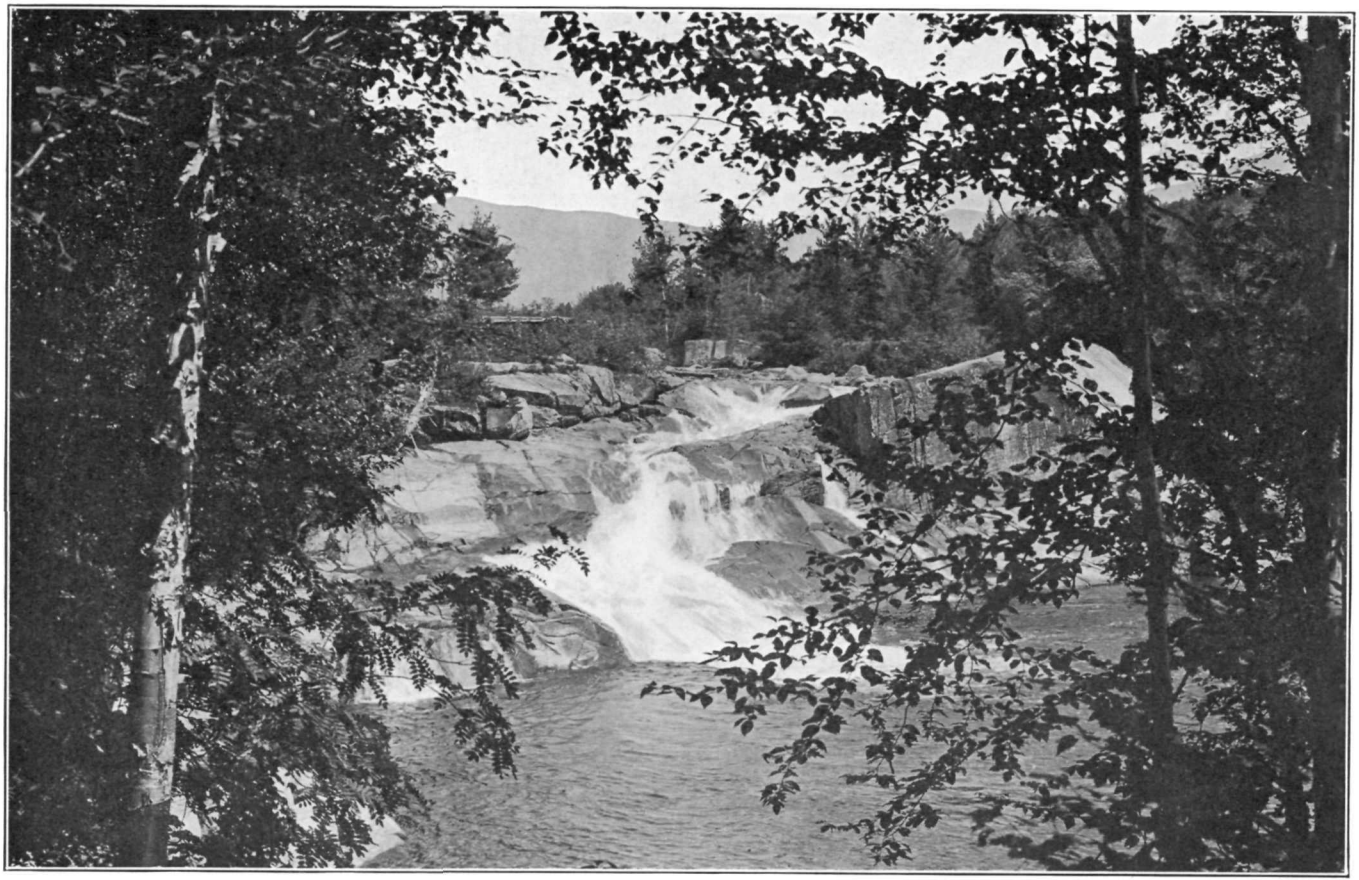
A KATAHDIN STREAM

In this forest, stretching broadly down the mountain ranges of the Appalachian system from Northern Maine to Georgia, the United States has an inexhaustible resource, of permanent economic value, if only the tree-species that produce it, turning the passing rains and sunshine of the season into structural, heat-and-energy conserving form, be protected in their self-renewal. Once let a break occur, however, through excessive depletion of a species' ranks or sudden sweeping tree-disease, such as has recently assailed the Chestnut and is assailing now the Pine, and this great economic gift of Nature, this magic spell by which the Pine, the Chestnut, the Hemlock or the Spruce is built from air and water and a pinch of dust, is lost to us and to the world forever. And with it, too, an infinite source of beauty and delight.

Three dangers threaten now this old and rich inheritance: forest fires in annually recurrent periods of draught; exploitation by private interests with vision centered on immediate gain; and introduction by the new carrier systems of the world of insect and fungal tree diseases against which age-long evolution has not given the American species immunity or capacity for resistance.

Between us and such destruction stands, representing the Nation and its abiding interest in preventing it, the National Forest Service. It is splendidly equipped and organized for such a task, and is already doing a magnificent work of conservation in the West. In the East, where early relinquishment of public rights in the land made re-acquisition of it for such purpose necessary, the work has only just begun, with the establishment of the White Mountain and the Southern Appalachian Forests. From these it should extend until each great forest district in the East is adequately represented in it.

Two such—those of New Hampshire and the South—are represented in it now, thanks to the broad statesmanship and energy of Senator Weeks and his associates; a third should unquestionably be that of the great coastal State of Maine—



THE SITE OF A FUTURE WATER-POWER

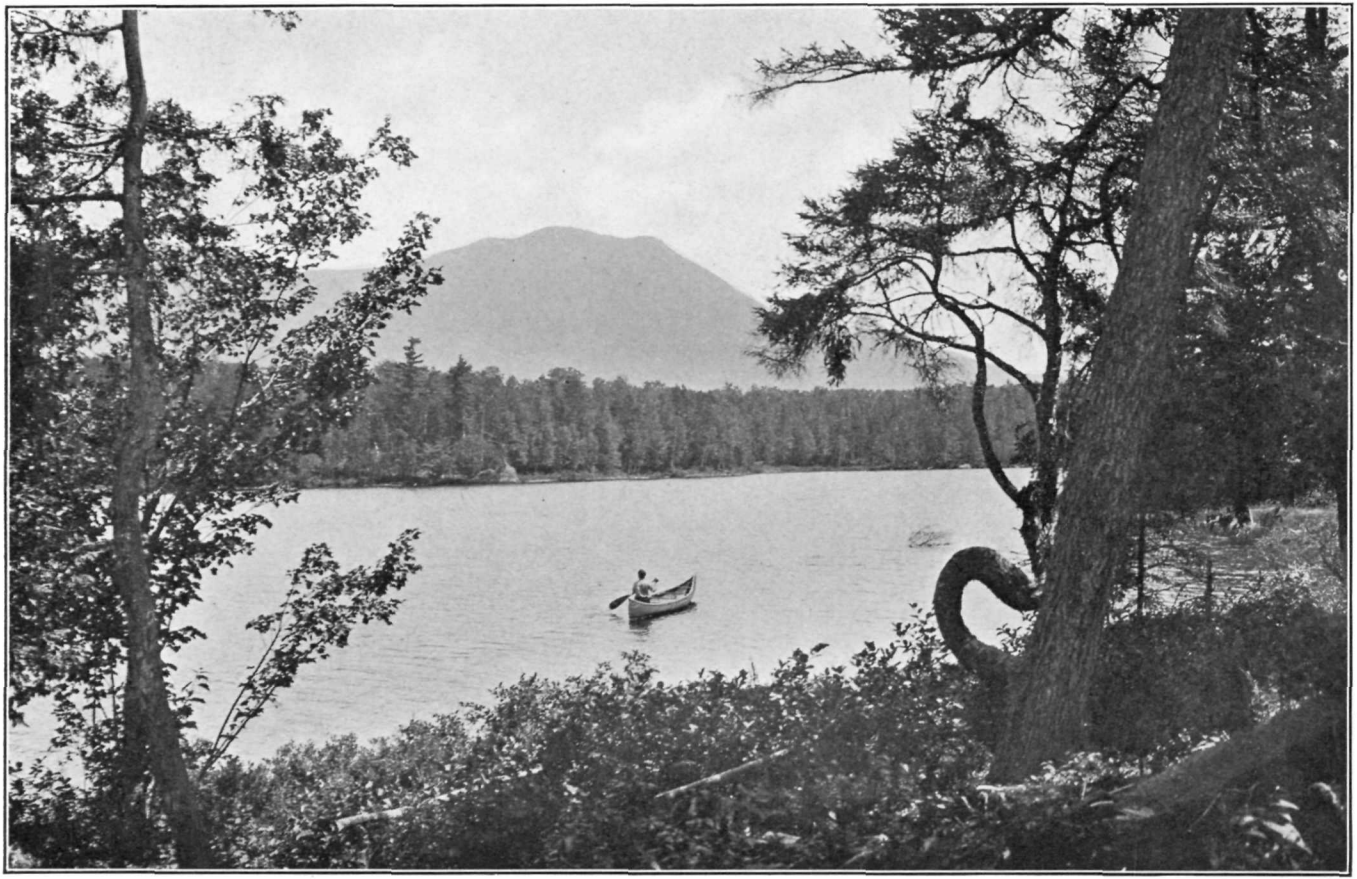
the homeland of the Eastern Pine and Spruce — with its vast forest tracts and valuable timber that has been of untold benefit to every other Eastern State in its upbuilding. In it, one tract stands out beyond all others as suited to such purpose, that of the grandest mountain group throughout the East, Katahdin—a vast block of ice-worn, boldly sculptured granite rising above a forest land extensive enough to form a separate State* and climatically distinct from any other, with its own forest needs and problems. Around it on either side flow the East and West Branches of the Penobscot River, upon which its great tributaries of water are utilized for power and transport.

No National Forest could be better placed to represent and dominate a forest land, nor is there any forest in the East of greater national concern than that which it would represent. There is no more valuable Forest Service work to do, apart from the study and prevention of invading tree diseases, than guarding from fire such rocky, humus-covered slopes as these and those of the White Mountains, whose waters feed industrial and navigable streams. And no more important biologic work could be accomplished than the establishment under Government protection of such a vast and splendid Bird and Wild Life Breeding Ground and Sanctuary at the heart of the greatest, the wildest, and the most shot-over, game land in the East.

The most valuable source of energy in sight to replace coal and oil, whose fast diminishing supplies can now be looked upon as temporary only, is water power. Centuries have clothed our rocky mountain sides, such as those of the White Mountains and Katahdin, with a humus covering that centuries only can replace. This humus, formed from vegetable matter, holds water like a sponge but burns like fuel. A sweeping forest fire will consume in a few hours what has been ages gathering. When it is gone, the rain that came gradually down the mountain slopes and maintained the streams beneath in even flow will descend in torrents, wasting their water to the sea, and leave dry beds behind.

This, too, should be held in mind, that the rain-fall on such mountain heights as these is far greater than below — on Mt. Washington, in a drier climate than Katahdin, 83½ inches annual average — and that these are lands, accordingly, whose power-producing waters it is doubly important to conserve.

*See Note B, page 33.



KATAHDIN FROM KIDNEY POND

NOTE A
LOUISIANA IN 1816

Louisiana in 1816, when Dr. Bigelow wrote, was not the present State but a vast, wild territory recently acquired from France — for the sum of fifteen million dollars — and comprising all that lay to the westward of the Mississippi and the north of Texas. When first explored and claimed for France by Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle, who entered it from the north in 1682 and named it for his sovereign, Louis XIV, it meant the whole great Mississippi Valley, on both sides. Later it passed to Spain, then back again to France, now limited by the river eastward. Napoleon's needs led finally, in 1803, to its sale to the United States, who owe their present continental greatness to the chance thus offered and the statesmanship that took it.

In 1713, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, lord and first owner of Mount Desert Island and founder of Detroit, was made its Governor, thus linking together in his roving and adventurous life the three great provinces of ancient France—Acadia, Canada, and Louisiana— since shared between the United States and England.

NOTE B
DESCENDING FROM KATAHDIN
H. D. Thoreau, 1846

I found my companions where I had left them, on the side of the peak, gathering the mountain cranberries, which filled every crevice between the rocks, together with blueberries, which had a spicier flavor the higher up they grew, but were not the less agreeable to our palates. From this elevation, just on the skirts of the clouds, we could overlook the country, west and south, for a hundred miles.

There it was, the State of Maine which we had seen on the map, but not much like that, — immeasurable forest for the sun to shine on. No clearing, no house. It did not look as if a solitary traveler had cut so much as a walking-stick there. Countless lakes, — Moosehead in the southwest, forty miles long by ten wide, like a gleaming silver platter; Chesuncook, eighteen long by three wide, without an island; Millinocket, on the south, with its hundred islands; and a hundred others without a name; and mountains, also, whose names, for the most part, are known only to the Indians.

The forest looked like a firm grass sward, and the effect of these lakes in its midst has been well compared, by one who has since visited this same spot, to that of a "mirror broken into a thousand fragments and wildly scattered over the grass, reflecting the full blaze of the sun."

It was a large farm for somebody, when cleared. According to the Gazetter, which was printed before the boundary question was settled, this single Penobscot County in which we were was larger than the whole State of Vermont, with its fourteen counties; and this was only a part of the wild lands of Maine.

Sieur de Monts Publications

I. Announcement by the Government of the creation of the Sieur de Monts National Monument by proclamation, on July 8, 1916.

II. Addresses at Meeting held at Bar Harbor on August 22, 1916, to commemorate the establishment of the Sieur de Monts National Monument.

III. The Sieur de Monts National Monument as a Bird Sanctuary.

IV. The Coastal Setting, Rocks and Woods of the Sieur de Monts National Monument.

V. An Acadian Plant Sanctuary.

VI. Wild Life and Nature Conservation in the Eastern States.

VII. Man and Nature. Our Duty to the Future.

VIII. The Acadian Forest.

IX. The Sieur de Monts National Monument as commemorating Acadia and early French influences of Race and Settlement in the United States.

X. Acadia: the Closing Scene.

XI. Purchas translation of de Monts' Commission. De Monts: an Appreciation.

XII. The de Monts Ancestry in France.

XIII. The District of Maine and the Character of the People of Boston at the end of the 18th century.

XIV. Two National Monuments: the Desert and the Ocean Front.

XV. Natural Bird Gardens on Mount Desert Island.

XVI. The Blueberry and other characteristic plants of the Acadian Region.

XVII. The Sieur de Monts National Monument and its Historical Associations. Garden Approaches to the National Monument.
The White Mountain National Forest.
Crawford Notch in 1797.

XVIII. An Old Account of Mt. Washington. A Word upon its Insect Life.
A Word on Mt. Katahdin.

XIX. National Parks and Monuments.

XX. Early Cod and Haddock Fishery in Acadian Waters.

XXI. The Birds of Oldfarm: an intimate study of an Acadian Bird Sanctuary.

XXII. The Sieur de Monts National Monument and The Wild Gardens of Acadia.

XXIII. The Sieur de Monts National Monument as a Huguenot Memorial.

These Publications may be obtained by writing to

THE CUSTODIAN,

Sieur de Monts National Monument,

Bar Harbor, Maine.