

which often overlays hilly countries, by giving the inhabitants strong frames and unconquerable energy of body and mind—an energy which is developed in overcoming obstacles; and from the fact that greater exertions must be made, they rise to a higher grade of intellectual attainment than the inhabitants of places possessing more natural advantages.

Some weeks of my proposed absence still remained, and I felt no inclination to shorten my stay and resume business. I, therefore, procured a light carriage in Concord, and resolved to drive leisurely through this Switzerland of America, this lovely region of the White and Green Mountains, and send it back from Lake George, where I expected to meet some friends, and return with them to New Orleans. Pursuing my intention, the close of a day in the latter part of August found me not far from the lake shore in Vermont. A lovely sunset shed its golden radiance athwart distant mountain summit, and spread its variegated hues broad and generously over each gentle slope and waving grain field, and lighting upon the placid lake, gilded each dancing ripple that broke upon the shore. The eye could linger upon such a scene, taking in at a glance the swelling hills towards the east, the varied colourings of the harvest fields near, while upon the west extending widely, rolled gently the beautiful Champlain, gemmed with green islands, and dotted with white sails. The reflection of the glowing clouds rested upon the waters; roseate and violet-hued imagery, castellated piles, towers, and lofty battlements, found answering forms in the crystal surface beneath. While gazing, one might well indulge in poetic visions, and imagine the land of the blessed near those bright openings which I saw in the clouds far to the north-west. To a native of the Granite State, or her sister realm, Vermont, the pure air, the vivid green of the landscape, the abrupt summit of the mountains, the craggy steeps, up which wind narrow roads, the succession of undulations in the surface, are features of constant interest, and call forth the fondest attachment. I well remember my sensations while viewing the last rays of sunlight on this particular evening. A gush of glory seemed to settle over the scene, a sweet repose fell upon the farm-houses, whose casements glistened in the sunset; the voices of the animal creation grew fainter—a solemn hush fell upon my spirit. I held my breath. I cannot express the intense longing I felt to sympathise with the spirit of