

age, the opposite White Mountain group. The Appalachian range is thus in this part of its course, supported on either side by outliers higher than itself.

My present purpose is not to give a general geographical or geological sketch of the White Mountains, but to direct attention to the vegetation which clothes their summits, and its relation to the history of the mountains themselves. For this purpose I may first shortly describe the appearances presented in ascending the highest of them, Mount Washington, and then turn to the special points to which these notes relate.

In approaching Mount Washington by the Grand Trunk Railway, the traveller has ascended from the valley of the St. Lawrence to a height of 802 feet at the Alpine House at Gorham. Thence in a distance of about 8 miles along the bank of the Peabody River, to the Glen House, he ascends to the elevation of 1632 feet above the sea; and it is here or immediately opposite the Glen House, that the actual ascent begins. The distance from the Peabody River, opposite the hotel, to the summit is nine miles, and in this distance we ascend 4656 feet, the total height being 6288 feet above the sea.* Formerly only a bridle path led up this ascent; but last year a regularly graded and admirably finished carriage road was opened, by which visitors can drive comfortably to the top and back without any of the fatigue formerly experienced. This enterprise, almost worthy of comparison with the great roads over the passes of the Alps, was undertaken several years ago by a joint-stock company, and has at length been finished, at a cost, I believe, of \$40,000, the interest on which it is hoped will be paid by the tolls levied on travellers, whose annual numbers are estimated at about 5000 for this road. This royal road to the summit is however by far too democratic for the taste of some visitors, who mourn the olden days of ponies, guides, and adventures; and though it gives an excellent view of the geological structure of the mountain, it does not afford a good opportunity for the study of the alpine flora, which is one of the chief attractions of Mount Washington. For this reason, though I availed myself of the new road for gaining a general idea of the features of the group, I determined to ascend by Tuckerman's ravine, a great chasm in the mountain side, named in honour of the indefatigable botanist of the North American

* According to Guyot, but some recent surveys make it a little higher;