

The short stout trunk of the oak, holding its immense weight of branches, is an emblem of strength. Its wood has shown this strength. For hundreds of years it was used in building the ships of England's navy. The ancient Britons worshipped the oak, which then grew in great abundance over the southern part of the island of Great Britain.

### Our Mountains and Hills.

By PROFESSOR L. W. BAILEY, LL.D.

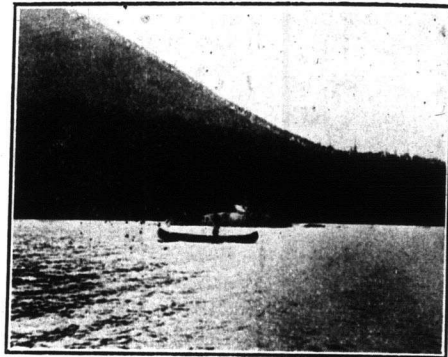
If our sea-coasts, as shown in previous sketches, have their beauties and their lessons, this is no less true, in both particulars, of our hills and mountains.

True it is that within our limits we have no eminences sufficiently exalted to introduce in any great degree the element of grandeur. We have no towering peaks like those of the Alps, the Yungfrau or the Matterhorn; no volcanic cones, like those of Vesuvius or Etna; no permanently snow clad summits or glacier-filled valleys; no profound cañons, such as trench the Rocky Mountain system in so many ways and places; we have no heights exceeding 2,900 ft., which in regions of great mountains would be mere pimples on the side of the loftier ridges; yet no one can stand on the summits of our higher hills, after a more or less arduous climb, without feeling amply repaid for the effort necessary to reach them.

Take for instance Bald Mountain, at the head of the Nictau branch of the Tobique, the highest, as, with the exception of a few feet, it is certainly the finest eminence in Acadia. As one stands upon its nearly bare summit, and with his eye sweeps the horizon in the effort to identify recognizable points, what a panamora lies spread before him! As far as the eye can see (and this under favorable conditions may be one hundred miles or more—including in one direction the distant hills of Gaspé, and in the other the conspicuous ridge of Mt. Katahdin in Maine) there is apparently an unbroken forest, though columns of smoke rising here and there in the distance, mark where clearings or settlements have taken partial possession. At our feet is Nictor Lake, prettiest of New Brunswick lakes, nestling among hills, but little inferior to that on which we stand, which for unnumbered ages have stood undistinguished by special appellations, and have, through the labors of Prof. Ganong, only recently been named and measured. (See list below). To many, such a view suggests the waves of a

storm-tossed ocean; only, unless a storm be brewing—and storms in these highlands come with unexpected suddenness and violence—there is a quietude which is almost solemn. Surely such scenes widen one's horizon in more senses than one. They lift the observer to a higher than the ordinary plane of thought, and, as Ruskin has said, "Nature herself among the mountains seems freer and happier, brighter and purer, than elsewhere."

Let us change now for a moment our point of view and look at old Sagamook (Bald Mt.) from the lake below, as the writer has done more than once by the moonlight of a mid-summer night. The accompanying photo will give some idea, but a very imperfect



NICTOR LAKE AND SAGAMOOK MOUNTAIN.

one, of its outline, but only an actual visit to what is undoubtedly the prettiest and most striking bit of scenery to be found in New Brunswick, can convey any adequate idea of the impression it produces, an impression not of beauty only, but also of grandeur, solemnity and mystery,—the latter for the reason that so many thoughts are suggested, which one finds it difficult or impossible to answer. How long for instance has the mountain been there? How and when was it produced? Does it represent the original hill in its entirety? or is it, like many other mountains, only a fragment of what it once was?

Before attempting to answer these questions, and as paving the way to an answer, let us look for a moment at some other of our prominent hills.

I would next refer, in New Brunswick, to the Squaw's Cap and the Sugar Loaf near Campbellton. Their names suggest their general outlines, which, like some of the effects of sea-sculpture already noticed, illustrate the frequency with which Nature produces results similar to those of human agency. A view from the summit of the first named eminence with members of the Summer School, Campbellton, 1899, resting near the summit, 2,000 feet above the sea, is given in the accompanying cut. In this case the ocean is distinctly visible in the distance, its surface dotted with white sails, while nearer at hand is the sea of green which is always, unless forest fires have swept them away, an accompaniment of mountain views, and in the near foreground piles of