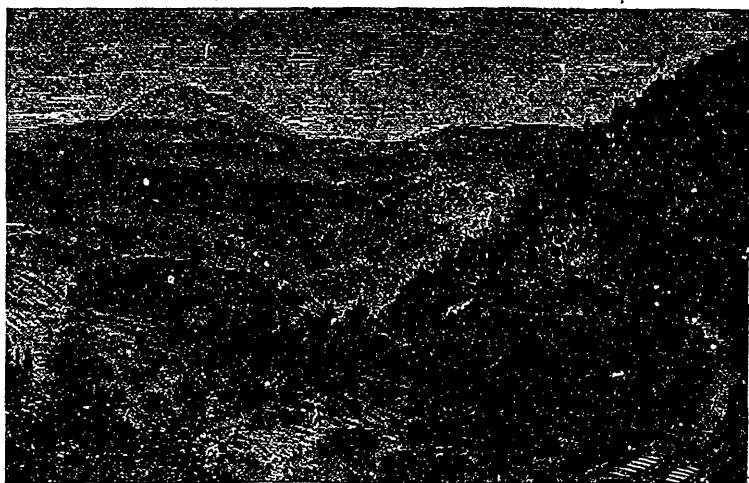


which mark the outlines of the entrenched camp built by the Confederates, a very wide landscape is seen. The scene, from its mere extent, is most impressive. To the west and north are the dark ranges of the Bull Run Mountains; on the east and south stretches a vast plain, gently undulating to the remote horizon. Except when the trains are in motion, a solemn hush, a brooding spirit of repose, rests on the scene. The very stillness seems to have within it the repining sound of a low wind in a lone cemetery. One does not find it hard to realize that the storm of war once revelled here and passed on, leaving, it is to be hoped, eternal peace. A double consecration, in



A SEA OF MOUNTAINS.

which majestic nature and history no less majestic, each have borne an equal part, appears to hallow the place, and the tourist, returning in the twilight from the ruined bastions to his hotel, deeply impressed with all he has seen, carries with him a holy sadness which he will long remember.

Thoroughfare Gap is eleven miles from Manassas, and its gloomy passes, overhung by wooded cliffs, present a strong contrast to the smiling landscapes which are seen on either side. Scarcely less picturesque than the scenery at Thoroughfare Gap is that which, beginning at Linden, extends for miles in the direction of Front Royal. Here the passage of the Blue Ridge is effected by bold curves and grades that sweep around