



ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA.

Dryden and their school knew nothing of it. The ancient classic writers seldom referred to the beauties of nature, save of its milder manifestations, as the "flower bespangled meadow," the "rippling rill," the "fertile field." Homer, the greatest of them all, seems almost alone to have rejoiced in these great elemental forces which speak of divine power and energy. Over and over again he describes "the wine-dark sea," "the violet-coloured wave," the majesty of high Olympus, the beauty of the vale of Tempe.

In the Hebrew Scriptures we have manifested a keen sympathy with nature and recognition of its might and majesty: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." "Thy righteousness is like the great mountains." "His strength setteth fast the mountains." "Mountains and hills praise the Lord." These, and many other passages in the Psalms, in Job, in the prophecies, show a realizing sense of God in these manifestations of His power. "The glory of Lebanon," "the excellency of Carmel

and Sharon," the grandeur of Hermon—those great features of Palestine—are over and over described.

The modern landscape painters have had much to do with the cultivation of this new higher sense of beauty. The old masters, while matchless in portraiture, painted impossible landscapes. Ruskin says no man ever painted a tree till Turner showed them how; and still more true is this of mountain sublimities. Ruskin himself has become the interpreter of nature to multitudes whose eyes he has opened to the beauty of mountain and valley, river and lake. The number of landscapes and seascapes on the walls of our modern art galleries, and the annual exodus to the mountains and sea-shore show the growth of this new cult and feeling. Anticipating by two hundred years this sentiment, Milton said, "It is treason against nature not to seek out and enjoy her beautiful scenes."

It was not, however, an abstract discussion that we began to write, but it was to recall memories of a summer tour of many years ago to