Mountains and Mountaineering in the Far West—*continued.* By E. T. Coleman.

MOUNT ST. ELIAS was first discovered on July 20, 1741 (old style), by Bering and his associates, who named it after St. Elias, the patron saint of the day. 'It is probable that they saw, about the same time, all the other high peaks of the adjacent region, though the fact is not mentioned in the imperfect records existing of the expedition. On May 3, 1778, Captain James Cook, in search of a north-east passage, saw a beautiful peak which he named Mount Fairweather.'*

From the plates given in Vancouver's 'Voyages,' Sir Edward Belcher's 'Voyage of the *Sulphur*,' and an illustration in the above-mentioned report, St. Elias would appear to be the grandest, as well as the loftiest, mountain on the coast. Vancouver speaks of a 'still connected chain of lofty mountains, whose summits are but the base from whence Mount St. Elias towers, majestically conspicuous in regions of eternal frost.' Sir Edward Belcher says: 'Each range is in itself an object worthy of the pencil, but with the stupendous, proud St. Elias towering above all, they dwindled into mere hillocks, or into a most splendid base on which to place his saintship.' Mr. Dall before quoted says, 'pre-eminent in grandeur is the southern face of the mountain.'

The latitude and height of St. Elias and the other principal mountains in Alaska, as given in the list, were determined by a series of very careful observations made with the sextant, vertical circle, and theodolite, by the United States Coast Survey, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Dall and assistants. It is 'the latest and most precise contribution to our knowledge of the subject.'

The conclusion arrived at in the above-quoted Report is as follows:—'These Alps are, like the high Sierra of California, mainly composed of crystalline rock, and in their topography, their small, pustular, basaltic vents, their associated marbles, quartzites, and later conglomerates, exhibit a close parallel to the Sierras; th' parallelism in structure and composition implies parallelism in age and method of formation; and finally, that the volcanic origin of the high peaks is opposed not only by analogy, but by the known facts. A glance at the accom-

* Report on Mount St. Elias, from the 'U. S. Coast Survey Report for 1874.' Appendix, No. — printed July, 1875. By W. H. Dall, Acting-assistant U. S. C. S.