

THE DELAWARE WATER GAP.

BY THE REV. DANIEL WISE, D.D.

"Try the air at the Water Gap," said a friend from whom we were asking advice, as a convalescent, with respect to the best and most accessible spot for an invalid seeking recuperation.

To the Water Gap, therefore, we went.* Leaving the tropical atmosphere of New York one sultry summer afternoon, we sped across the monotonous meadows of the Hackensack, through the busy cities of Passaic and Patterson, up to the green hills among which the waters of the Passaic River wind and twist and gather strength to perform tasks among the ponderous water-wheels of the above-named cities, more wonderful than those of the genii of the Arabian Nights. The air of the iron mountains at Boonton swept refreshingly through the cars, and the clear atmosphere breathed an invigoration which amply atoned for the absence of such landscape beauties as delight the eyes. But after reaching Mauch Chunk the scenery becomes charming. The road now runs along the banks of the Delaware. The undulating fields of Pennsylvania, dotted with comfortable homesteads, stretch far away until lost in the golden-tinted mists of the distant horizon. The canal, with its creeping boats drawn by lazy mules, scarcely modifies the impression of dreamy quiet begotten by the prospect. By and by we catch our first glimpse of the great natural curiosity we are so eager to behold. It is but a glimpse, however, for we are still eight miles from the Gap.

As we now rattle along the scenery changes as by magic. The hills are transformed into mountains. Instead of the rural beauties of a cultivated landscape we behold nature clothed in her primitive grandeur. Between these giants roll the gentle waters of the Delaware, slowly winding through a mysterious cut less than a thousand feet wide for the distance of a mile. Seen through the mists of evening, it is a weird and wondrous spot; but our reveries are speedily broken by the uncanny

* This favourite summer resort may be reached from almost any part of the country by the Pennsylvania Railway or its numerous connections.