

space, and monopolizing every inch of room they can ever expect to occupy.

The place derives its name, Mauch Chunk, signifying Bear Mountain, from this cone-like elevation on our right, under the shadow of which stands the tasteful depot at which we alight. From this point we cross, first the canal and then the river, by a bridge of two spans, and find ourselves before the Mansion House, on the principal street of the town.

That gigantic mountain south of us, turning abruptly to the eastward, with the carriage road ascending along its rugged slope, is known as the Flagstaff; and from Prospect Rock, which may be reached by a rustic footpath from the hotel grounds, there is to be had a glorious view of the river and the valley, both far below. Looking in the opposite direction, the eye follows the narrow highway, first with its single row of buildings facing the river, and then built up on both sides to the foot of Mount Pisgah, an almost perpendicular elevation rising to the height of fifteen hundred feet above the tide-water, and about the base of which cluster, in what seems at first a hopeless confusion, the dwellings, stores, and churches of this active little town. It is over Mount Pisgah that we shall enjoy a ride on the famous gravity railroad known as the "Switchback." Though Mauch Chunk was first settled in the year 1815, it was in this immediate vicinity that, about a quarter of a century earlier (1791), anthracite coal was accidentally discovered by one Philip Ginter, a hunter. Upon the strength of this, the Lehigh Coal Mine Company was formed in the following year. Out of this grew the present Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, whose shipments sometimes, of late years, have amounted to eighteen thousand tons weekly. Gradually, with the development of its mining interests, Mauch Chunk has grown to a place of six thousand five hundred inhabitants, and is, moreover, from its natural beauty of scenery and surroundings, annually becoming more popular as a summer resort.

The first problem presented for solution to the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, when organized, was the transportation of coal from the mines to the river. Science and enterprise joined hands to solve it. First, a tedious system of mule teams