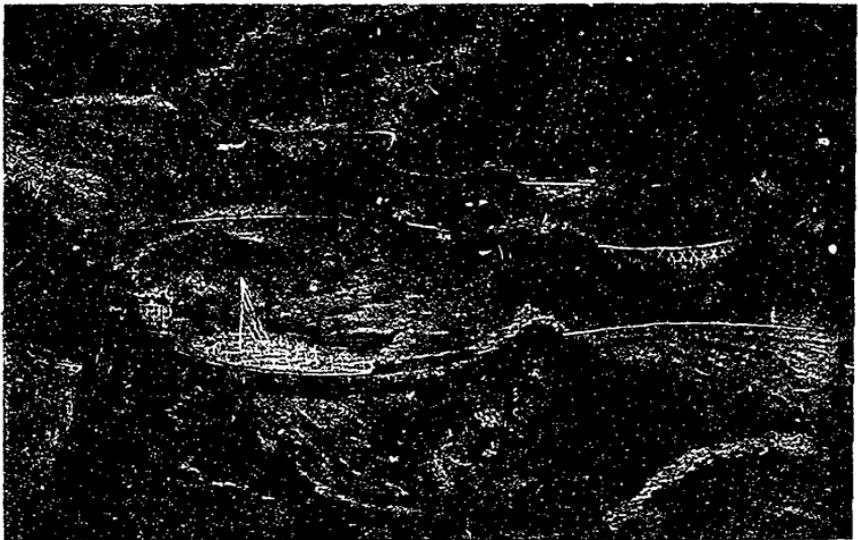


cleft by some mighty convulsion of nature from the Table Rock, and to have been placed on the other side of the Linville river as a sentinel on its banks. One view of this pinnacle presents the profile of a hawk's head and beak, and the name is derived from this peculiar contour of its face. Moving westward from Morganton we pass up and along the fertile valley of the Catawba, with the mountains rising on either side, until we reach the picturesque Falls of Catawba, shown in our frontispiece.

Round Knob is a picture worthy of the painter's brush and the artist's pencil. In the rear of the splendid hotel, the railroad company has constructed a large artificial lake, by dam-



ROUND KNOB.

ming up "Silver Creek," which runs through the valley below, and from the smooth surface a fountain throws up a stream 268 feet high, which is said to be six feet higher than any other jet of water in the world. In the centre of the valley, a conical-shaped little mountain rises to the height of a few hundred feet, and from its crest the visitor can see the tortuous windings of the cars as they ascend the mountain to its summit. The distance is eight miles, and presents one of the most splendid achievements of civil engineering on this continent. The line twists and turns and doubles itself on its own track in so many crooked trails that it often puts the passenger in doubt whether he is going up or coming back, and while he gazes out of one window