

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, AS A HEALTH RESORT FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

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This little city in the mountains, the eastern "Garden of the Gods," the "Land of the Sky," is situated, almost as straight as a drop-line, a thousand miles south of Toronto. It lies in the very heart of the lower Blue Ridge region. This noble chain of mountains commences in the rugged highlands of Quebec, and traces its course southwards through New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, known successively as the Green, White, Adirondacks and Alleghanies, growing in majesty as it stretches southwards into the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. Here they reach their highest elevations, and stretch out in massiveness and grandeur in successive ridges for many miles. In lower ranges they still extend southward, through South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, finally merging into the lowlands of the latter State.

In the middle of this highest region, and surrounded by a score of the tallest peaks east of the Rockies, Asheville is situated. The town itself averages 2,300 feet above the sea, and is built upon a succession of lower hills, which look, when surveyed from the summits of any of the mountains around it, like huge billows of the ocean, surrounded by more gigantic ones on every side.

Although they can be observed in every direction, they are the most picturesque to the south and west, and when observed from the top of the great central plateau, half a hundred distinct summits, all between 4,000 and 6,000 feet in height, can be seen stretching in successive ranges, one behind the other, as far as the eye can reach. The scene is one of surpassing loveliness, tinted in various hues, from deep blue to violet and amethyst. The highest peak in this direction is Pisgah, at an elevation of 5,757 feet, while away to the east towers Mount Mitchell, 6,717 feet, the highest of all the mountains in this long range.

Two rivers run through Asheville, the French Broad and the Swannanoah, both beautiful streams; and from the latter, several miles above the city, the water supply is obtained.

The hills and mountains, where not built upon or cultivated, are covered with wood, and the soil is everywhere fertile, although the terra-cotta color of the clay mud gives the surface in many places a peculiar aspect.