

THROUGH THE OLD DOMINION AND THE CAROLINAS.

I.

THE Old Dominion and the Carolinas present to the Northern tourist probably greater variety and magnificence of natural scenery than any part of the American continent east of the Rocky Mountains. But till recently those wonders of nature have been almost inaccessible, on account of the lack of railway communication with the highlands and valleys of the Appalachians, the Blue Ridge, and the Great Smoky Range. That desideratum has at length been found in the Virginia, Midland, and Western North Carolina Railways and their connections, which traverse from end to end and from north to south the great States which are to be the scene of our present wanderings in search of the picturesque.

To the tourist, the invalid, the artist, the student of history, they offer a route full of natural beauty, ever changing but never wearying in its variety. Washington and its architectural fascinations and social attractions left behind, the tourist finds himself upon the Long Bridge, with Arlington House on his right, peeping from the wooded hilltops beyond Georgetown. Here lie 11,276 Federal dead, of whom 4,077 are unknown even by name.* Seven miles from Washington is Alexandria, once a port of much importance and destined to be so again, when the natural growth of its powerful neighbour shall absorb it, as Georgetown has already been absorbed. Braddock's headquarters in 1755, previous to the fatal march upon Du Quesne, Washington's pew in Christ Church, as it was when he occupied it; the house in which Ellsworth, the commander of the New York Zouaves, was killed, for tearing down the Confederate flag at the beginning of the late war; the residence of Canning, the British minister, and many other places of historical note are pointed out.

*Of the seventy-six national cemeteries, where are buried 308,331 Federal dead and 21,661 Confederate prisoners of war, seventeen are in the State of Virginia, in which are buried 68,823 Federal soldiers and sailors, 30,888 of whom are known, and 37,935 cannot be identified.