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OVER THE ALLEGHANIES.

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I.

THE great range of the Appalachian or Alleghany Mountains stretches for thirteen hundred miles from Eastern Canada to Northern Alabama. Its names, which are of Indian origin, mean the endless. In the North the Adirondacks and White Mountains are outliers of this range. It attains its culmination in the Black Dome of North Carolina, which is 6,700 feet above the sea. Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, is 6,288 feet high. The Alleghanies consist of parallel ranges of gigantic upheaval, like enormous waves in a sea of mountains a hundred miles wide. They are composed of granite and gneissoid rocks of much older date than those of either Alps or Andes. They were elevated before the vast coal measures that fill their basins were deposited, as the capping of the mountains consists of strata of conglomerate rocks which dip beneath the coal beds in the valleys. The rush of the retreating waters as the land was raised above the sea, appears to have opened those "gaps" in the mountains which form such a peculiar feature in their scenery, and which could not have been produced by the action of any existing stream. Embedded in their rocky heart are exhaustless