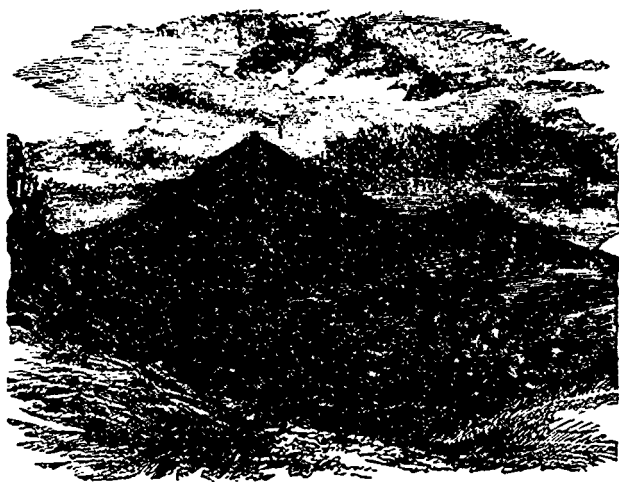


more. The spot where it pours is more wild, and combines more of the elements of loneliness, untamableness, lawless beauty, and strong contrasts of features, than any other spot in the White Mountain region.

Through the famed Saco Valley the route is over the Portland and Ogdensburgh Railroad. The whole valley is very attractive; and one is inclined to doubt whether the old mode of conveyance, even if more fatiguing, had not some advantages over the easier journey by rail. The hills rise boldly on each side, and for a long distance we can see the noble pyramidal form of Kearsarge,



MOUNT KEARSARGE.

whose solitariness gives it a lonely dignity scarcely equalled by any other mountain in the region.

Mount Willard is easily ascended, to the very summit, in carriages, which are furnished for the excursion at a reasonable rate, while those who prefer to make the ascent on foot will find the walk, through groves of maple and mountain ash, pleasant, and by no means fatiguing. By a gradual ascent, over heavily-wooded slopes, you reach an elevation of more than two thousand feet above the Crawford House, and stand upon a little plateau, which is broken by the precipitous southern front of the mountain, and thickly strewn with delicate and beautiful mountain harebells. Directly in front, at your very feet as you emerge from the scanty and stunted growth which marks the approach to the summit,