

with vegetation, while the opposite slope, which was almost perpendicular at its base, and which reached high up the mountain sides, was one dense mass of large detached blocks of reddish granite, or else the original rock from which they had been torn. On this side of the chasm scarcely a trace of vegetation could be seen, as far as the eye could reach.

The two sides of this singular defile are as strongly contrasted in their mineralogical characters as in the features just described. The first or lowest side is composed of a fine compact greyish syenite, much weathered on the surface, and covered with vegetation; the other is of the same material as the boulders I had already found farther up the river, viz.: a coarse-grained feldspathic granite, or granulite. There is no mica present in it, and but little hornblende. It is but little weathered, looking fresh and red, and, as before stated, is almost destitute of vegetation. The direction of the defile, at the point where we examined it, was nearly east and west, but soon turned off to the northward, when it could be no longer traced from where we stood. I would gladly have occupied a longer time in its exploration, but could not well afford the delay. As a point of reference for this vicinity, of which so little has heretofore been known, I have ventured to call this singular range the "Feldspar Mountains" in allusion to the mineralogical character of its principal rocks. The locality is about fifteen miles, as near as I can judge, above the Forks of the Nepisiquit River. On my journey to and from the mountain I found the following plants: *Kalmia angustifolia*, *Ribes rubrum*, *Epilobium spicatum*, *Linaea borealis*, *Oxalis acetosella*, and others.

Below the Feldspar Mountains for a distance of many miles, the country is high and rugged, and presents an indescribably desolate appearance. As far as the eye can see, the mountain slopes have been stripped of their vegetation by extensive fires, and nothing but the charred trunks of decaying trees is now visible. Mountains are seen in every direction, the principal chain pursuing a course parallel to that of the river, about east and west. The latter descends rapidly, gliding almost in a straight line, and without a fall, down an inclined plane of three or four degrees. Boulders of feldspathic and syenitic rocks are at times very numerous; and from the fact that we passed them only at intervals, according to the windings of the current, I am inclined to think that they cross the stream in regular trains, pursuing a uniform general direction, a