

passed, and easily trace the windings of the turnpike. You catch an occasional glimpse of the river as it plays in and out of the forest. As you gain the ascent the view widens and a broad vista of plain and mountain breaks upon the view. Gradually the trees of the temperate zone are left behind, and the shrubs and flora of Labrador and Greenland make their appearance. You can soon, also, see over the south wall, which so jealously limited your vision as you drove up the valley. On reaching the main ridge between Clay and Washington, you have on the left of the track, facing up the mountain, the huge "Gulf of Mexico,"



DISTANT VIEW OF MOUNT WASHINGTON.

an immense amphitheatre or ravine, down which you can look for an almost sheer descent of a thousand feet.

The best time to approach Mount Washington is in the clear afternoon of a summer day, when the shadows fall soft and rich in the gorges and over the rugged slopes of the chain. Then the mountains look higher, and their grandeur is tempered with a mystic beauty. There is perpetual charm, too, in watching the play of the vapors around the cliffs and in the ravines on a misty and showery day in August. Now they will wrap a long moun-