

THE GIFT OF MOUNTAIN REALITIES TO MANKIND
GIFTS OF THE MOUNTAINS

THE GIFT OF THE MOUNTAINS

In this world of uncompromising realities, always urgent and sometimes grim, whatever will take a man out of himself is to be cherished. This is the message of the mountains. Theirs is the power to quicken imagination, to restore perspective, to lift the spirits of men along with their bodies, to spread before their vision a broader view of the world even as their eyes encompass new horizons. This is their offering.
There can be no greater gift to mankind.

that of the famous President. The mountain was given its name because there was a family of early settlers in this region whose name was Grant. Since other peaks in this group, however, have been named in honor of Presidents, the mountain is now often spoken of as 'Mount Ulysses Grant.'

CHAPTER XIV

LINCOLN MOUNTAIN

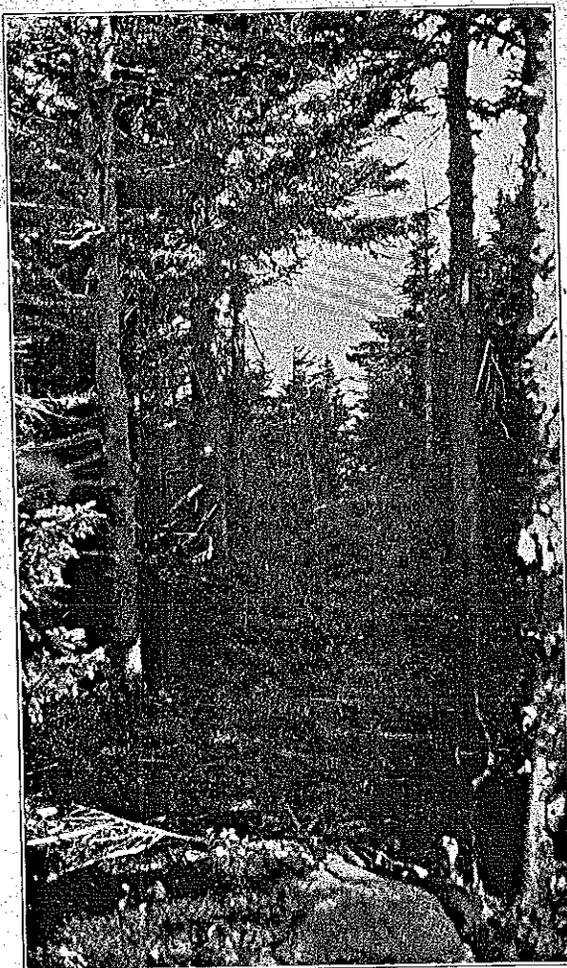
Mount Abraham is the open, southerly summit of Lincoln Mountain. Mount Ellen is the northerly and more remote summit. The Long Trail, beginning at the highway in Lincoln-Warren Pass, crosses both peaks and makes possible the ascent of Abraham as a fairly easy trip or the full circuit of Lincoln Mountain as a long but profitable full day's journey. There is a magnificent panorama from Abraham. Outlooks, also, along the skyline of Lincoln Mountain afford wide views. Distance, highway to summit of Abraham and return, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Time 5 hours. To continue along the ridge to Mount Ellen and out to the highway at South Starksboro makes a total journey of 11 miles. Time 9 hours.

ONE of the famous mountain masses of Vermont, and one of the highest, is Lincoln Mountain, situated twenty miles southwest of Montpelier and thirty miles southeast of Burlington. The mountain is essentially a long, narrow, and lofty ridge, extending in a general north-and-south direction and rising in several distinct summits. Of these Mount Abraham, with an altitude of 4052 feet, is farthest to the south, while Mount Ellen, with a height of 4135 feet, is farthest to the north. The distance between these two summits in an airline is nearly three miles. There are lesser summits between Abraham and Ellen, including Little Abe

with an altitude of 3960 feet, Lincoln Peak, 4013 feet, Nancy Hanks Peak, 3860 feet, and General Cutts Peak, 4080 feet.

All of the upper part of the mountain, with the exception of a limited area, is within the Battell Forest, now the property of Middlebury College. The holdings here are about five miles long and more than three miles across in the widest part. They begin near the Lincoln-Warren Pass and extend north to the line separating the towns of Lincoln and Warren from Starksboro and Fayston.

These are part of the areas that were acquired by Colonel Joseph Battell with the purpose of reserving for the public welfare large tracts of untouched forest and mountain summit. Piece by piece sections were bought as they became available, many of them regions that had never seen the lumberman's axe. Gradually these holdings accumulated until they embraced thousands of acres and included a dozen mountains. Beginning in the south at the top of White Rocks Mountain in the town of Goshen, five miles below Middlebury Gap, they extended in an unbroken line along the main axis of the Green Mountains almost to the valley of the New Haven River, eleven miles distant in an airline, taking in one of the summits of Romance Mountain and including Worth Mountain, Monastery, Burnt Hill, Kirby Peak, Battell,



MOUNT ABRAHAM FROM MOUNT GRANT

Bread Loaf, and Wilson. After a break of five miles the holdings began again, at Lincoln-Warren Pass, and with a slight break, close to the Pass, extended north for five miles more.

At his death Colonel Battell left these forests, with other property, to Middlebury College. In his will he wrote: 'Being impressed with the evils attending the extensive destruction of the original forests of our country, and being mindful of the benefits that will accrue to, and the pleasures that will be enjoyed by, the citizens of the State of Vermont, and the visitors within her borders, from the preservation of a considerable tract of mountain forest in its virgin and primeval state . . .'; and with this thought in mind he placed all of the property in the care of his *alma mater*, as trustee for the public.

The forests are maintained under the supervision of an expert forester. Such mature timber is removed as should be disposed of for the welfare of the whole tract. Thus the area is a remarkable illustration of forest management on a large scale. At the same time it is a vast section of primeval wilderness.

Just below the summit of Mount Abraham Colonel Battell erected a lodge of logs and up to this he built a road passable for horse-drawn vehicles. Here he entertained many people. At the

mile northerly end of the mountain and one third west from the summit of the peak known as 'Mount Ellen' he built Ellen Lodge. The trail that crosses the mountain from south to north passes the lodge on Mount Abraham. Neither building, however, is any longer in use.

From the highest point in Lincoln-Warren Pass a link of the Long Trail climbs to the summit of Mount Abraham. Thus the top of this impressive mountain can easily be reached in a round-trip journey of about five hours from a point to which automobiles can be driven. The panorama from the peak is unobstructed and is one of the best in the Green Mountains.

For those who have plenty of time at their disposal and who are capable of a longer journey, the day's trip may be extended to include the whole ridge of Lincoln Mountain to the summit of Mount Ellen, thence down the northerly slopes to Glen Ellen Lodge and out by trail to the village of South Starksboro, also known as 'Jerusalem,' which is on a public road. While this is a much longer journey, it is not too long or difficult for a vigorous trumper to undertake in a single day and it is a remarkably interesting and beautiful circuit.

The highway through Lincoln-Warren Pass is accessible from the east by Route 100 and from the west by roads diverging from Route 4. The road

through the Pass is steep and rises to an altitude of 2424 feet, but motor-cars readily climb its grades. If a trumper is coming by train the nearest railway station is Bristol on the west. From this point there is a stage to Lincoln Center. The distance by road from Lincoln Center to the height of land in the Pass is a little more than four miles and a half. The village of Warren is four miles east of the Pass.

The trail to the summit of Abraham leaves the Pass at a signboard and immediately enters forest. The first third of a mile is occupied in ascending a knoll and descending the farther side. In doing this the trail winds about considerably and alternately rises and falls.

About fifteen minutes from the highway the path settles down to a steady ascent of the mountain, slabbing the side of a ridge that rises on the right of the trail. About half an hour from the highway the trail enters a fairly level area which it follows for a few minutes. It then climbs steeply, again runs at a level, once more climbs briskly, and about forty minutes after leaving the highway comes out upon ledges. The distance to this point is a little less than a mile and the gain in altitude is about three hundred and fifty feet.

Continuing in a steady rise for three or four minutes the path reaches the top of a spur and

now descends somewhat. Soon it begins to rise again and presently emerges in a more open area which has been logged. Passing through a region of small spruces followed by one of bushes and small hardwoods, it climbs steeply, the footway being wide and full of loose stones. Beyond this the trail passes between two large boulders where there is a sign reading, 'The Carpenters.' The sign refers to two trail workers who helped to put through the Long Trail in this region — the Misses Carpenter, of New York City. The altitude at the two boulders is about six hundred feet above the highway at Lincoln-Warren Pass and the distance to this point is somewhat less than two miles.

Crossing an area that has been logged recently the trail soon enters a region of close-growing, small evergreens. In three or four minutes there is a vista of the summit of Mount Abraham ahead. Five minutes beyond this a brook, coming from the right, crosses the trail, and a few rods beyond the brook the trail forks in the evergreen woods, one branch leading to the left, to Lincoln Center, while the main trail turns to the right.

Following the right branch a short distance you will find the trail for the summit bearing to the left, while the branch to the right leads to a spring a few rods distant. Turning to the left and continuing along the main trail, you will arrive in an

other minute at an opening. On the left and close at hand are the ruins of Battell Lodge.

In the years that have elapsed since the Lodge was in active use it has rapidly fallen into poor repair and has become uninhabitable. It was built in 1899, in the same year in which the buckboard road was constructed up the mountain. At that time, also, the trail was laid out and cleared from the Lodge to the summit of Mount Abraham and was continued along the summit as far as Mount Ellen. The ruined cabin below the summit of Ellen was built in 1903.

Keeping to the right at the opening in which the Lodge stands, you will find a well-marked trail in which, for a time, upward grades alternate with fairly level stretches. In about twelve minutes after leaving the Lodge, you will come to White-Throat Sparrow Spring, so-named because a pair of these birds were nesting near by when work was in progress on this section of the Long Trail. The spring is not as reliable as the one near the Lodge.

The trail now begins to climb steeply and in three or four minutes reaches Wildcat Outlook, which was given its name because the men who worked here on the Long Trail reported hearing wildcats howling at night in the neighborhood of this outlook.

You are now only a few minutes from the top of

the mountain. A short distance above Wildcat Outlook the trail crosses a fairly level area. Rising again, in about eight or ten minutes the path emerges in low scrub and follows a line of cairns from this spot to the top of the mountain, which is reached in another five minutes.

The distance from Battell Lodge to the summit of Mount Abraham is somewhat less than a mile and the rise in altitude is a little more than five hundred feet. The time required from the Lodge to the summit is about three quarters of an hour.

The top of Mount Abraham is open ledge, fringed farther down with scrubby trees, but with nothing on the summit to obstruct the view. There is a large pile of rocks at the highest point and near by is a low, rock wall which serves as windbreak in times of storm.

The view from the summit is diversified, including a long vista of the main axis of the Green Mountains, both north and south, a prospect over many valleys with their mosaics of farm lands, a panorama of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks, and another broad panorama to the east.

In the north the narrow and wooded ridge of Lincoln Mountain stretches away, first to the right toward Lincoln Peak, then on toward the north. The summit of Mount Ellen at the farther

end of the ridge is nearly three miles distant in an airline.

Beyond Ellen but hidden by it are the Stark Mountains. Still farther along the axis swings to the right to Burnt Rock Mountain, Ira Allen and Ethan Allen, with the peak of Camel's Hump standing up beyond them, about fifteen miles distant. Almost in line with Camel's Hump, but slightly to the right, is the summit of Mount Mansfield, thirty miles away.

Close at hand the ridge of Lincoln drops into a valley to the east, on the right of which is another range of lesser height including Scrag Mountain and Bald Mountain. Over this range in the distance, if the air is clear enough, you can see summits around Willoughby Lake, sixty-five miles away. East and southeast the lesser, parallel range continues, drawing nearer as it approaches Granville Notch. Farther away, south of southeast, is Mount Ascutney, fifty-four miles away.

Directly south is the main axis of the Green Mountains. Across the dip of Lincoln-Warren Pass a wooded spur leads up to Mount Grant, which is five miles distant in an airline. Just over the right slopes of Grant is Bread Loaf Mountain, eight and a half miles away, with Mount Wilson at the left. Over the left slope of Grant is Mount Cleveland.

Much farther away, if the air is clear enough, you can see the group of mountains around Killington Peak, thirty-six miles distant. Killington stands out as the highest. A line drawn to these summits from your viewpoint would cross the top of Mount Grant slightly to the left of its highest point.

In line with the shallow notch between Mount Wilson and Bread Loaf Mountain is the tip of a distant cone, believed to be the summit of Mount Carmel. To the right of Bread Loaf and detached from the main chain stands Mount Moosalamoo, fourteen miles distant. Lake Dunmore is hidden behind its slopes.

The valley of the New Haven River, with its checkerboard of farm lands reaching up toward the slopes of Bread Loaf and Grant, begins southwest from your viewpoint and extends into the west. The river breaks through the lesser range that lies west of the main axis by a notch which is plainly visible. On the right of the notch is the long ridge of Hogback Mountain and on the left is South Mountain. Just beyond the notch is the village of Bristol.

Over this lesser range on the west and extending for many miles from south to north is the long line of Lake Champlain. Beyond it are the Adirondacks rising in an extended, irregular mass.

In leaving the summit of Mount Abraham to go down to Battell Lodge, you will find your trail starting southeast and marked by cairns. In fog or storm it is well to be careful to find these cairns and to make no mistake.

At the fork in the trail below Battell Lodge it is possible to take an alternate trail which descends the mountain by the old buckboard road. This trail winds down a westerly spur and in two miles emerges on a public road at the 'Eldon Atkins Place.' Motor-cars can be driven to this point. About half a mile beyond is the 'Elmer Atkins Place,' and a quarter of a mile farther there is a crossroad and schoolhouse. Here, if you continue along the road straight ahead, you will come out at West Lincoln, which is on the main road from Bristol to Lincoln. If you turn to the left you will arrive in about a mile at the main highway leading from Lincoln to the Lincoln-Warren Pass.

If you have left your car at the Lincoln-Warren Pass with some one to drive it around to meet you, this can be accomplished by going west as far as the first turn to the right, diverging there and proceeding for a mile to the corner at a schoolhouse, again turning right and proceeding to the end of the road at the Eldon Atkins Place.

If there are at least six hours of daylight ahead

of you when you are ready to leave the summit of Mount Abraham, and if you are capable of continuing your journey for a distance of eight miles, three and a half of which will be an up-and-down trip and the remainder a descent from the highest point of Lincoln Mountain, you can continue to the north along the ridge of the mountain to the summit of Mount Ellen, thence down to Glen Ellen Lodge and out to a public road at a place known as South Starksboro. This route follows the Long Trail as far as Glen Ellen Lodge and an approach trail beyond that point. The trip is interesting and affords many beautiful outlooks and vistas. South Starksboro is reached by motor-car from the Lincoln-Warren Pass by proceeding west to the first public road about three miles from the Pass, then north two miles and a half to Downingville, where there is a jog in the road to the left across a bridge and immediately a turn to the right, and thence up the valley about three miles.

The trail toward the north from Abraham descends the summit cone gradually and in about ten minutes passes a branch path which leads to a spring. At most times this water is reliable, but it may fail in dry weather. Continuing along the ridge the main trail rises and falls and in about ten minutes more crosses the first small eminence to

the north of Abraham, a knoll known as 'Little Abe.' About five minutes after passing Little Abe the trail surmounts the summit of Lincoln Peak where there are excellent outlooks.

Descending sharply, then rising and falling, the trail reaches Nancy Hanks Peak, which has a wide outlook to the east from the top of the cliff. The time required from Lincoln Peak to Nancy Hanks Peak is about fifteen minutes.

Twelve minutes farther the trail surmounts another summit, and descending for about ten minutes more passes through Holt Hollow, named for Sidney Holt, of New Haven, one of the workers on the Long Trail. Continuing along the ridge for twenty minutes more the path reaches Raiman Ravine, so named in honor of Robert Insall Raiman, of Brooklyn, New York, another trail worker.

The trail now begins to climb, and in two minutes reaches a lookout that gives a view to the left. Beyond this there is a steep climb, then a more gradual ascent along the crest of a very narrow ridge with outlooks through the trees to right and left, notably to the left. About ten minutes from Raiman Ravine the path reaches a summit formerly known as 'Battell Peak,' but more recently named 'Cutts Peak,' in honor of General R. D. Cutts, of the United States Coast and Geodetic

Survey, who helped to survey these mountains. Here there is a wide view to the left.

Continuing, the path descends sharply for a minute, then rises equally briskly for three minutes more, still on a narrow ridge with vistas through the trees, and surmounts a rocky, open spot known as the 'Malcolm Graeme Lookout,' probably the best viewpoint on Lincoln Mountain with the exception of the summit of Mount Abraham. The altitude here is more than forty-one hundred feet above sea level and the lookout is higher, therefore, than Mount Abraham, which is 4052 feet above the sea.

Again descending and then rising, the path reaches the highest point of Lincoln Mountain, the summit known as 'Mount Ellen,' with an altitude of 4135 feet above sea level. There is no open lookout, but a little to the north there is a good view to the northwest.

The trail now begins to descend the northerly slopes of Lincoln Mountain. In about four minutes from the summit a branch path leads to the left to a log cabin about a third of a mile distant, formerly habitable but no longer a usable shelter. Just below the branch the main trail crosses an opening and then descends a steep slope, zig-zagging from side to side in order to accomplish the descent by easy grades.

Fifteen minutes from the summit of Mount Ellen the trail passes Spinulose Fern Spring, so named because of the large numbers of spreading spinulose fern found in this region. Unfortunately this spring cannot be relied on in times of drouth.

Continuing its downward course along the backbone of the ridge the trail winds about, passing large, mossy rocks. In eight minutes from Spinulose Fern Spring the path reaches Roderick Dhu Lookout, which gives a vista to the east toward Mad River Valley. This and other places on the northerly slope of Lincoln Mountain carry names drawn from Scott's 'Lady of the Lake.' Beyond this point the trail winds about in the midst of moss-covered rocks and cliffs and in a splendid forest of spruce and fir. Ferns are everywhere.

In twenty-five or thirty minutes from Roderick Dhu Lookout, the trail emerges into an opening and passes in front of the log shelter known as 'Glen Ellen Lodge.' This shelter was built in 1919 and is provided with comfortable bunks, a stove, and a table. Back of it a path leads in a few yards to a spring which is reliable except in extreme drouth. In front of the shelter is a little rock-walled garden of native plants.

The trail to South Starksboro branches from the Long Trail to the left, or west, just before you reach the shelter. It is marked by a sign. While it

is not cleared and graded, as is the Long Trail, it is blazed and may be followed without difficulty. The distance from Glen Ellen Lodge to the public road is a little less than three miles.

CHAPTER XV

BURNT ROCK MOUNTAIN

A circuit that follows a link of the Long Trail and takes in the remarkable approach to Burnt Rock Mountain, the passage of its summit, and a sequence of ravines on the north. One of the most beautiful tramps in the Green Mountains. Distance, end of road to summit and out to another public road, 11 miles. Time about 9 hours.

For one who cares to follow a trail that offers a remarkably beautiful sequence of untouched and exquisite ravines, bits of magnificent forest, twisting climbs over rock ledges, and wide views of distant mountains, there is no single day's journey that surpasses the tramp from Birch Glen over Burnt Rock Mountain to Montclair Glen. The trip is a succession of ascents and descents, gradually trending upward to the triple dome of the mountain that lies central along the way, again ascending to a high col between two peaks, and then rapidly descending to a delightful valley.

It is neither an easy nor a difficult journey. The total distance from the place where you leave the public road, one mile from Hanksville, to the point where you again emerge upon another road, three miles from Huntington Center, is about eleven miles. Of that distance a part of the way is the