

**HISTORICAL RELICS OF  
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS.  
ALSO, A CONCISE WHITE  
MOUNTAIN GUIDE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649603114

Historical Relics of the White Mountains. Also, a Concise White Mountain Guide by John H. Spaulding

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

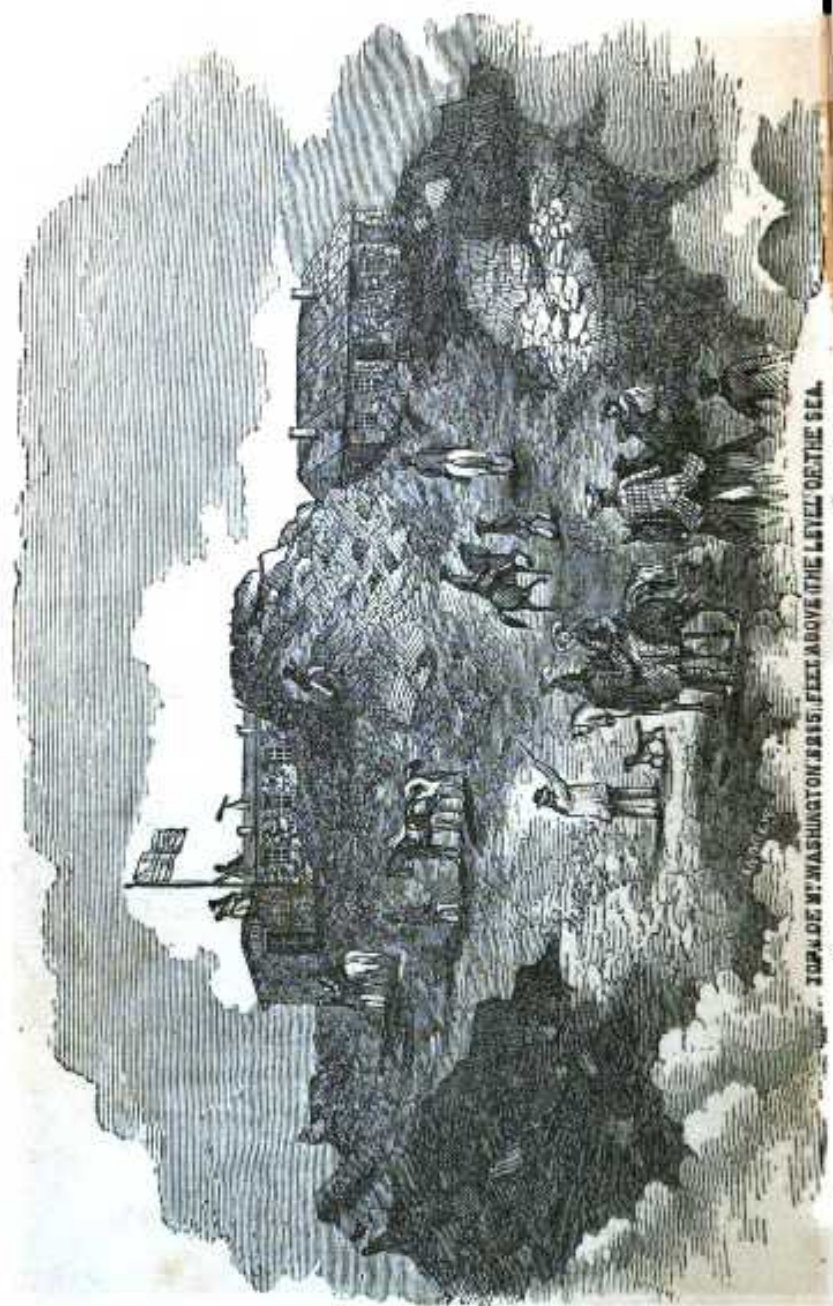
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**JOHN H. SPAULDING**

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TOP OF MT. WASHINGTON 3915 FEET ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE SEA.

botany, - see pp. 94-97

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BY

JOHN H. SPAULDING.



MT. WASHINGTON:  
PUBLISHED BY J. R. HITCHCOCK.  
1862.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1888, by  
J. H. SPAULDING,  
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

RIVERSIDE, CAMBRIDGE: PRINTED BY H. O. Houghton.

## INTRODUCTION.

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There may be no locality combining more general interest for the pleasure-seeking tourist than the WHITE MOUNTAINS. Here every season thousands come from different climes, on a pilgrimage, that they may pay most worshipful tribute in spirit-felt wonder, and songs of praise. My apology for attempting to originate and compile the following pages, is the belief that the curiosity of the travelling public requires a work embodying my design. The pencil of "Oakes" and the pen of "Beckett" have nicely defined every explored locality, interestingly connected with the particular geography of these mountains; besides which, the number of those may be called "*legion*" who have made fancied famous record for the world of their White Mountain impressions. These mountains are a faddeless pictured page in Nature's wonderful book, — or a gigantic monument of ruins formed by an overwhelming change, that widely disfigured the original geological formation of this wild region; and as a massive rock-shadow in a strange land, is to a journey-sick pilgrim with a gushing cold-water spring by his feet, so my impressions of these famous "*old peaks*" now rise to my sight. An ambitious presence in fancy is with me now, with a voice saying, like a prophetic whisper from "*Gheistland*," "*Rescue from the twilight of forgetfulness the HISTORICAL RELICS*



OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS ! ” The *curious data* of olden times — the *antiquities* of this anciently named Agiochook, with the statistical facts of modern origin, necessary for a concise history of “ *these bald old heads of nature* ” — have never been tangibly combined. The trials and daring exploits of the fearless adventurers, who in other days filled the historic blank of this renowned locality, are rich with rarities for a work of interest to the reading world. Their life-relics have twined around them, by traditionary remembrance, pleasant associations of undecaying interest. We may for future visions gaze back from the cloud-capped crags into the valley of the past, and rescue from the oblivious mist of years the oral monuments, that, tinctured by the life-passion of times long gone, linger like visions of light upon the map of memory.

Vanity is not the power that prompts me to desire success in this task ; but as storm and time cover the names chiselled upon the top crag of Mount Washington with moss, so, with a round of years, “ *Old Mortality* ” *should come*, to brighten up the vestiges of the past, and catalogue new events with the re-chiselled.

The antiquarian collections of interesting facts, found in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, having been open to my inquiry, my humble tribute of respect is due that society for the arrangement by which my research has been favored ; and their assistant librarian, John Appleton, M.D., is, for his politeness to me as a stranger, deserving my lasting gratitude. The kindness of J. M. Rix, Esq., of Lancaster, in giving me free access to his library of choice books, is happily remembered. N. Noyes, Esq., of Boston, and B. F. Whidden, Esq., of Lancaster, have my sincere thanks for assisting me in obtaining the facts here registered, from the most authentic records.

J. H. S.

Lancaster, June, 1855.

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

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IN offering the third edition of the **HISTORICAL RELICS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS**, I have made an effort to meet in a satisfactory manner the questions of the thousands who come here to while away a time in this favorite resort. I feel under a debt of gratitude to Professors Clark and Tuckerman, of Amherst College, for their politeness in furnishing me a complete list of all the plants natural to the Alpine regions of the White Mountains. I confidently believe now this book contains more reliable information than any other book yet published in regard to the White Mountains; and, in its present enlarged form, I trust its merits will be duly appreciated, and may it meet a generous reception from those who visit this justly popular place of resort!

THE AUTHOR.

Mount Washington, August 18, 1868.

