

**MOUNTAINEERING IN
COLORADO: THE PEAKS
ABOUT ESTES PARK**

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Mountaineering in Colorado: the peaks about Estes Park by Frederick H. Chapin

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FREDERICK H. CHAPIN

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LONG'S PEAK FROM TABLE MOUNTAIN.

MOUNTAINEERING IN COLORADO

The Peaks About Estes Park

BY

FREDERICK H. CHAPIN



BOSTON

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

1889

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1885 12/10/1885

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University Press:
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To the Memory

OF

A. L. S. C.

WHO WAS A LOVER OF THE MOUNTAINS AND OF ALL THAT IS
BEAUTIFUL AMONG THEM, AND WHOSE COMPANIONSHIP
INSPIRED THIS VOLUME.

PREFACE.

THE day for making striking discoveries in the Rocky Mountains is past. It is now three centuries and more, since Alvaro Cabeça de Vaca with three followers traversed the continent from the Gulf of Mexico to the Spanish settlements on the Pacific coast. His wanderings led him through the region now known as New Mexico; thus he beheld and crossed the southern Rockies. Nearly a hundred and fifty years later, two French explorers, the brothers La Vérendrye, crossed the prairies from the great lakes, and, reaching a point near the sources of the Yellowstone River, were the first white men to look upon the northern peaks. Since the day of these early adventurers the exploring parties of Lewis and Clark, Pike, Long, and Fremont have opened the way; and more recently the better equipped expeditions of Hayden, Powell, King, and others have explored the sierras and cañons, especially those of Colorado.

There remain only byways and corners to be more thoroughly searched; and fortunate will be the adventurer who finds anything of note that has not already been seen and written about by the indefatigable members of survey parties that have preceded him.

But in climbing some of the peaks in the autumn of 1886 I saw much that was novel, and during succeeding seasons other remarkable sights forced themselves, as it were, right before my camera. Mr. Ferguson, a pioneer of '59, at whose ranch I stayed while in Estes Park, told me, on the day of my leaving, "I reckon no man ever came into this Park before, and saw as much as you have seen." Some of the success which was attained in certain carefully planned expeditions was due to luck; more must be placed to the credit of the clear skies and continual sunshine of Colorado.

Though I have made many ascents in other parts of the Rocky Mountains, the peaks most thoroughly explored are those that surround Estes Park; for this reason it has been decided to limit the present descriptions to these northern peaks. The earlier ascents have proved very useful, however, in enabling me to identify different points seen in extended mountain views.