

**THE MT. HOLYOKE HAND-  
BOOK, AND TOURISTS'  
GUIDE: FOR NORTHAMPTON,  
AND ITS VICINITY**

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The Mt. Holyoke Hand-book, and Tourists' Guide: For Northampton, and Its Vicinity by John Eden

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**JOHN EDEN**

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THE

MT. HOLYOKE HAND-BOOK,

AND

**TOURIST'S GUIDE;**

FOR

NORTHAMPTON,

AND ITS VICINITY.

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BY JOHN EDEN.  
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NORTHAMPTON, MASS.  
HOPKINS, BRIDGMAN & CO.  
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Mrs. John G. Patton.  
(Class of 1816.)

## ADVERTISEMENT.



“The Mount Holyoke Hand-Book, and Tourist’s Guide ;” has been prepared for the use and accommodation of those who visit that renowned spot, in order to afford them the information necessary to their complete enjoyment of the varied and numerous objects embraced in the vast amphitheatre it commands. That its readers might repose full confidence in the authenticity of the description, reference has been had to the late President Dwight’s “Travels in New England ;” and President Hitchcock’s “Geology of Massachusetts ;” but such particulars have been added as altered circumstances and later events rendered necessary to the completeness and interest of the manual.

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## MOUNT HOLYOKE HAND-BOOK.



MOUNT HOLYOKE is situated in Hadley in the County of Hampshire, and State of Massachusetts. It is considered to have derived its name from Mr. Elizur Holyoke, one of the Commissioners for laying out Northampton in 1654, just after its purchase from the Indians.

Mount Holyoke is about 830 feet above the Connecticut at its base, but in the place of its ascent is of so gradual an acclivity, that carriages travel a considerable part of the way, and the summit may be reached on horseback by those whose pedestrian powers are feeble. Here the visitor is most amply paid for the trouble he has undergone, for from hence is seen the richest prospect in New England, and not improbably in the United States. Hitherto the view was confined to certain directions; it was restricted in others by trees and rocky eminences which the eye of the spectator could not surmount, but the newly-built observatory overtops all these obstructions, and presents to the vision of the beholder one uninterrupted and magnificent am-

phitheatre of landscape. And what a glorious view!

"In depth, in height, in circuit, how serene  
The spectacle, how pure!—Of Nature's works  
In earth and air,—  
A revelation infinite it seems."

Mount Holyoke is part of a Mountain ridge of greenstone, commencing with West Rock, near New Haven, and proceeding northerly across the whole of Connecticut; but its elevation is small until it reaches Easthampton, when it suddenly mounts up to the height of nearly a thousand feet, and forms Mount Tom. The ridge crosses the Connecticut, in a north east direction, and curving still more to the east, terminates ten miles from the river in the north west part of Belchertown. All that part of the ridge east of the river is called Holyoke, though the prospect house is erected near its south-western extremity, opposite Northampton, and near the Connecticut. This is by far the most commanding spot on the mountain, though several distinct summits that have as yet received no uniform name, afford delightful prospects.—  
Thus,

"Change of place  
From kindred features diversely combin'd,  
Produces change of beauty ever new."

Many are not aware of what may be gained by a slight change of position on a mountain, and thus lose much of the pleasure they might otherwise derive.

In the view from Mount Holyoke the grand and the beautiful are united, but the latter greatly predominates. The first hour spent on this spot will be one of the last to be effaced from the memory. Nothing can be seen, except an occasional glimpse through the trees, in the ascent, until the visitor arrives at the Mountain House, and here the sudden burst of such a magnificent prospect is as startling as it is delightful. The visitor finds himself lifted up nearly a thousand feet from the midst of a plain, which, northerly and southerly, is of great extent; and so comparatively narrow is the naked rock on which he stands, that he wonders it has withstood the winds and storms of so many centuries.

Of all the charming objects however with which the landscape abounds, the most enchanting is the Connecticut itself. This stream may perhaps with as much propriety, as any in the world, be named the Beautiful River. Joel Barlow, in his poem of the Columbiad, speaking of the Connecticut, says :

"No watery glades thro' richer vallies shine,  
Nor drinks the sea a lovelier wave than thine."