

**COLTON'S TRAVELER AND TOURIST'S GUIDE-
BOOK THROUGH THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND THE CANADAS: CONTAINING
THE ROUTES AND DISTANCES ON THE GREAT
LINES OF TRAVEL BY RAILROADS, CANALS,
STAGEROADS, AND STEAMBOATS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649552337

Colton's Traveler and Tourist's Guide-Book Through the United States of America and the Canadas: Containing the Routes and Distances on the Great Lines of Travel by Railroads, Canals, Stageroads, and Steamboats by J. H. Colton

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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J. H. COLTON

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A
GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE UNITED STATES, now comprising 31 states and several territorial appendages, occupies by far the most valuable and temperate portion of North America. Confined originally to the shores of the Atlantic ocean, this great confederacy of republics has extended its empire over the whole region spreading westward to the Pacific, and from the great lakes on the North to the Gulf of Mexico on the South. In breadth it measures 2,800 miles, and in depth 1,700 miles, with an area of 3,221,205 square miles. The frontier line is estimated at 10,000 miles—5,120 miles of which are sea coast, and about 4,900 miles lake coast.

The colonies planted by England at Jamestown in 1607, and in New England a few years later, formed the nucleus of these states. The French, Dutch, Swedes, &c., also planted colonies, but these were at an early period relinquished to the British, and at the period of the Revolution the whole country east of the Mississippi river, and as far south as Florida and Louisiana, belonged to that nation. The oppressions of the mother-country now produced a resistance, and ultimately resulted in the formation of the United States, and the acknowledgment of their independence. At this period the United States consisted only of thirteen constituents. Louisiana, including all the territory between the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains; Florida; Oregon; Texas; New Mexico, and California are acquisitions of the present century.

The political constituents of the present United States are as follows:

- I. *New England States*.—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut 6
- II. *Middle States*.—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, (and the *District of Columbia*,) 5
- III. *Southern Atlantic States*.—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida 5
- IV. *South-western States*.—Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, (and the *Indian Territory*,) 6
- V. *North-western States*.—Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ken-

tucky, Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin, (and the territories of Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska,)..... 8

VI. *Pacific States*.—California, (and the territories of New Mexico, Utah, and Oregon,)..... 1

Each of these states has distinct limits and a separate independent government, with a constitution and laws of its own. The territories belong to the United States, and until admitted as states into the Union, are under the direct surveillance of the federal authorities. These will be described separately.

The government of the United States is based on the constitution of 1787, and has only such powers as have been surrendered by the states individually for the benefit of the whole. Its formation was a political necessity—necessary for the protection and welfare of each and all the constituent states. Its authority, however, does not interfere with the internal affairs of individual states, nor has one state any power or right of supremacy over another. The powers of government are divided into executive, legislative, and judicial. The chief of the executive department is styled the President of the United States, whose duty it is to supervise the execution of the laws, &c. The legislative department is styled the Congress of the United States, and consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The President is so far a member of the Legislature as having a qualified *vote* on all the acts of Congress. The Senate is composed of two members from each state, chosen by the Legislatures thereof; and the House of Representatives consists of members elected by the people of each state in number according to population, and of one delegate from each organized territory. The present number of members is 533. The judiciary consists of a Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and eight associate justices, which meets at the seat of government annually in December; of Circuit Courts, held twice a year in each judicial district by a judge of the Supreme Court and a district judge; and of District Courts. The judges are appointed by the President for life, and are perfectly independent of the other departments of government. The powers of the United States' Courts extend to all questions arising under the constitution; to international causes; cases in admiralty, &c. All white male citizens of the United States, of the age of 21 years and upwards, are eligible to vote at elections for President and for members of the House of Representatives, and to hold any office by appointment or election; but none except native born citizens are eligible to hold the offices of President and Vice-President.

The population of the United States was—in 1790, 3,929,827; in 1800, 5,305,941—*increase* 35.01 per centum; in 1810, 7,239,214—*increase* 36.45 per centum; in 1820, 9,638,191—*increase* 33.12 per centum; in 1830, 12,866,020—*increase* 33.48 per centum; in 1840, 17,069,453—*increase* 32.67 per centum; and in 1850, 23,257,723—*increase* 36.25 per centum.

THE NEW ENGLAND STATES.

The section of the United States to which the name of "New England" has been applied, comprise the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. From their position in regard to the other States, they have also been termed the "Eastern States." New England is bounded W. by New York; N. by the British Provinces; E. and S. E. by the Atlantic ocean, and S. by the Atlantic and Long Island Sound, and is geographically situated between the latitudes of $41^{\circ} 2'$ and $47^{\circ} 30' N.$, and the longitudes of $69^{\circ} 49'$ and $73^{\circ} 15' W.$ from Greenwich. The aggregate superficies is 59,328 square miles.

The physical aspect of New England is extremely varied. In the N. it is traversed by the White Mountains; and a number of isolated hills are found in various parts. The central portions are less elevated, but consist chiefly of a succession of hills and vales, and several ranges of well-defined elevations from which the principal rivers have their sources. Many beautiful lakes are embosomed in the landscape. Near the sea the surface is low and marshy, and intersected by coves and creeks. The coasts are almost everywhere lined by a multitude of small islands which protect the harbors, but render navigation somewhat difficult. The substratum is generally granite; the geological character of the country, however, is not uniform. Many valuable minerals abound, such as iron, copper, coal, &c., and marbles of fine texture are found in vast quarries. The natural growths are oaks, pines, maples, &c., which clothe the mountains and line the margins of the lakes and rivers. The scenery, in many instances, is peculiarly sublime, and perhaps no part of America presents such magnificent prospects as those seen from Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, and Mount Holyoke, in Massachusetts. The climate is generally one of extremes, but the atmosphere is buoyant and salubrious.

Every department of national industry is profitably pursued in these States. In the three more northern, agriculture, grazing, and sheep-farming, employ a majority of the people; while in the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, manufactures, especially those of wool and cotton, engage almost universal attention. These States form indeed the great manufacturing district of the Union. Commerce is also extensively engaged in, and a large internal trade is carried on

by means of the network of railroads that covers the land. The fisheries contribute also to the wealth of the country, and more whale-ships sail from the ports of Massachusetts than from all other ports of the United States together.

Nowhere, more than in New England, has education been so zealously attended to, and nowhere else does the religion of the Gospel exert its benign influence so powerfully and universally. The people are moral and intelligent, and have long been considered, *par excellence*, the conservators of constitutional liberty. Their social condition is pre-eminently a happy one.

The first permanent settlers in these States were the Puritans from England, who arrived at Plymouth on the 23d December, 1620. The present inhabitants, though considerably mixed with more recent emigrations, are chiefly descendants from this stock, and still retain the many virtues for which their progenitors were so justly famed. The population in 1850* was 2,727,667.

THE STATE OF MAINE

Area 30,400 Square Miles.—Population 573,155.

MAINE, the north-easternmost of the United States, lies between 43° 5' and 47° 20' N. lat. and between 66° 49' and 71° 4' W. long.; and is bounded N. W. and N. by Canada; E. by New Brunswick and the river St. Croix; S. by the Atlantic ocean, and W. by the State of New Hampshire.

The surface of Maine is generally uneven, but not mountainous. In the west and north there are some irregular elevations, and Mars Hill, the eastern termination of the range has an altitude of 1683 feet. There are also several detached mountains, of which Mount Katahdin, 3300 feet above the sea-level, is the highest. The rest of Maine is hilly, except near the coast, where the land lies low and consists of sandy gravel, little fit for cultivation. The soil, however, improves on receding from the coast, and in the interior is most fertile. A large amount of the land is yet covered with its primeval forests. The State is well adapted to grazing and sheep-farming. The crops are in general abundant and excellent, but the shortness of the summer is somewhat prejudicial. Among the fruits, apples, pears, plums, and melons succeed well. The farmers are prosperous, and cultivate their lands with skill and industry.

Maine has a seacoast of two hundred and thirty miles, which is in-

* This is the census for 1850. Where not otherwise specified, the population of States and cities throughout this work must be considered as estimated for the same year.

dened by several large bays. Perhaps no State in the Union has so many fine harbors. Its rivers are generally navigable, and many supply valuable water-power. In some instances their courses are through the most magnificent scenery. The Penobscot, Kennebec, Androscogga, and Saco are the principal. In the interior there are many lakes and ponds, of which Moushead, thirty-five miles long and from ten to twelve broad, is the largest. The Schoodic Lakes in the east, and Sebago Pond in the southwest, are also considerable bodies of water. The principal bays are those of Penobscot and Casco. Numberless islets lie within a short distance off the coast, and land-lock many of the fine harbors for which this State is so celebrated.

Agriculture employs about four-fifths of the people, and about thirty thousand persons are engaged in manufactures. There are in the State thirty-six woollen factories, and a third that number of cotton mills. Shipbuilding is also extensively carried on: more ships, indeed, are built in Maine than in any other single State. Mining contributes little to the employment of the people; but the fisheries are a principal source of wealth to the seaboard districts. Commerce is very flourishing, and the coasting trade, especially, employs a large tonnage. The trade in lumber is very great, and internal trade generally is extending its ramifications with the progress of internal improvements. There are in Maine 304 miles of canal, and the railroads now completed have an aggregate length of 425 miles. There are also several in progress, and others projected and settled upon. Portland is the centre of the railroads of the State.

The principal collegiate institutions are Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, to which is attached a medical school, and Waterville College, at Waterville. There are Theological Seminaries at Bangor and Redfield; and about ninety academies in various parts of the State. The number of common schools is between 4,000 and 4,200, which are supported by the districts in which they are located. Education is general, and few persons are unable to read and write.

The State is divided into thirteen counties. The principal cities and towns are Augusta, Portland, Bath, Bangor, &c.

Augusta, the capital, lies on both sides of the Kennebec river, forty-three miles from its mouth, and at the head of sloop navigation. A handsome stone bridge connects the two sections. The State House and Lunatic Asylum are substantial structures; and the United States' arsenal situated here is a commodious building. The "Kennebec, Bath, and Portland Railroad" terminates here. Population 8,231. GARDNER CITY, six miles south of Augusta, has several extensive manufacturing establishments, and has lately made great progress in population and wealth.

PORTLAND CITY is situated on an elevated peninsula projecting into Casco bay. It is the largest and most commercial city in the State, and

the chief centre of railroad travel. It is well laid out, and has several fine buildings. The harbor is deep, safe, and capacious. Population 20,219. *Railroads extend hence to Boston, to Montreal, to Bangor, and to Augusta.*

BANGOR CITY, at the head of navigation on the Penobscot river, sixty-three miles from its mouth, contains a population of 14,441. The Kennebec river, which affords considerable water-power, passes through the city. The Penobscot is here spanned by a fine bridge one thousand three hundred and twenty-two feet long. Bangor is one of the most elegantly built places in the Union. Its trade in lumber is immense. *Railroads unite it with Oldtown, and also with Waterville, Deauville, and Portland.*

BATH is situated on the left bank of the Kennebec river, twelve miles from the sea, and is one of the principal commercial places in Maine. The river is here a mile wide, and the harbor excellent. Shipbuilding is extensively carried on. The town is built on a declivity, and extends a mile and a half along the river. Population 8,062.

BATH, on the river of the same name, and at the falls, which have a descent of forty-two feet, has a population of 5,794. YORK and WHEELS are suburban towns, and contain each about 3,000 inhabitants. BRISTOL WHEEL, on the Androscoggin, has a population of 4,576. WISCASSSET and THORNTON, are fine ports, between the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers. CAMDEN, BELMONT, FRANKFORT, ORONO, and OLDTOWN, on the west, and CASTINE, BUCKSPORT, ORINGTON, and BREWER, on the east of the Penobscot, are flourishing towns of 1,000 to 3,000 inhabitants. EASTWORTH, MACHIAS, LEWIS, EASTPORT, CALAIS, &c., are towns facing on the Atlantic, between the Penobscot and St. Croix rivers. Many of these towns are of considerable note, either for their enterprise or the amount of traffic that centres in them. Thomaston is noted for its lime, and Hallowell for its beautiful granite; while Castine boasts of its fine military position and the excellence of its harbor.

The first permanent settlements were made by the English in 1635, from which time it was successively under a proprietary government, and the government of Massachusetts, until the 21 March, 1820, when it was admitted as a State of the Union. Its boundary on the Canada line, long a matter of dispute and cause of a great deal of ill feeling, was not determined until 1843. In that year, a treaty for the settlement of the question was concluded at Washington, between Lord Ashburton, Special Envoy from Great Britain, and the Hon. Daniel Webster, then United States' Secretary of State. Since this period the State has rapidly progressed in all that contributes to material wealth, and its inhabitants are evincing a determination to lead, rather than follow, in the march of modern improvement. Maine derives its name from *Maine* in France, of which Henrietta Maria, Queen of England, was proprietor.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Area 9,380 square miles.—Population 317,964.

NEW HAMPSHIRE adjoins Maine on the west, and lies between 42° 41' and 45° 11' N. lat., and between 70° 40' and 72° 28' W. long.: and is bounded N. by Lower Canada; E. E. by the Atlantic ocean; S. by Massachusetts, and W. by Vermont, from which it is separated by the Connecticut river.

The Atlantic shore of New Hampshire is but little more than a sandy beach, bordered by salt marshes and inclosed by numerous creeks and coves; but with the exception of Portsmouth, near the mouth of the Piscataqua river, there is no harbor sufficiently capacious for merchant ships. For 20 or 30 miles from the coast, the country is little variegated; beyond this, however, the land gradually rises into hills, and in many parts of the state swells into lofty mountains, particularly in the north, and along the "height of land" between the Merrimack and Connecticut rivers. The highest summits between these are Grand Monadnock, Sunapee Mountain, and Mooselucoc. But the White Mountains are the grand feature of the state, and with the exception of the Rocky Mountains, are the loftiest in the United States. Mount Washington, the highest summit of the range, is 6,422 feet in height. Though not a continuous chain, these mountains are sometimes regarded as a continuation of the Alleghanias. The "Notch," a celebrated pass, through which there is a good road, is situated amid the wildest and grandest scenery, and has ever been an object of attraction to the summer tourist. In some places it is not more than 33 feet wide, and presents the appearance of a vast chasm bounded on both sides by lofty and ragged precipices. The general scenery of the state is impressive and in many parts magnificent, and this is especially so from Mount Washington. After climbing its neckrives for some distance, the forest trees begin to diminish in height, till at the elevation of 4000 feet, a region of dwarfish evergreens surrounds the mountain with a formidable collar, and above this the bald part of the summit, which is very steep and consists of naked rocks, presents a scene of desolation; but the labors of the ascent are fully recompensed. If the sky be clear, by a most noble and extensive prospect. On the S. E. the Atlantic, 65 miles distant, opens on the view; on the S., the bright waters of Lake Winnipiseogee; on the E., the lofty summit of Mooselucoc, and far away on the verge of the horizon is seen the Grand Monadnock. The barren rocks which extend a great distance from the summit, give a melancholy cast to the grandeur of the scene; and the whole, in many respects, reminds the visiter of the sublime and ever-varying landscape of Switzerland.