

**SOME HIGHWAYS
AND BYWAYS OF
AMERICAN TRAVEL**

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Some Highways and Byways of American Travel by Earl Shinn & Sidney Lanier & Edward A. Pollard

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EARL SHINN & SIDNEY LANIER & EDWARD A. POLLARD

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OF

AMERICAN TRAVEL.

BY
EDWARD STRAHAN, SIDNEY LANIER, EDWARD A. POLLARD,
AND OTHERS.

PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED.



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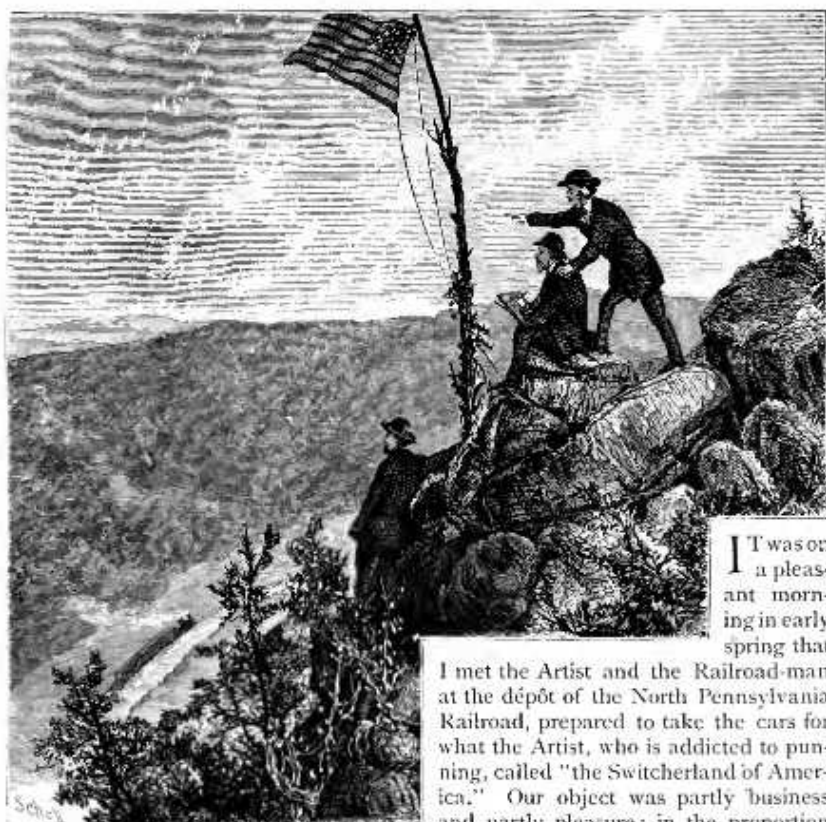
SOME

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

OF

AMERICAN TRAVEL.

A SWITCHBACK EXCURSION.



IT was on a pleasant morning in early spring that

I met the Artist and the Railroad-man at the dépôt of the North Pennsylvania Railroad, prepared to take the cars for what the Artist, who is addicted to punning, called "the Switcherland of America." Our object was partly business and partly pleasure; in the proportion of nine parts of the latter to one of the

"THE FLAGSTAFF," MAUCHI CHUNG.

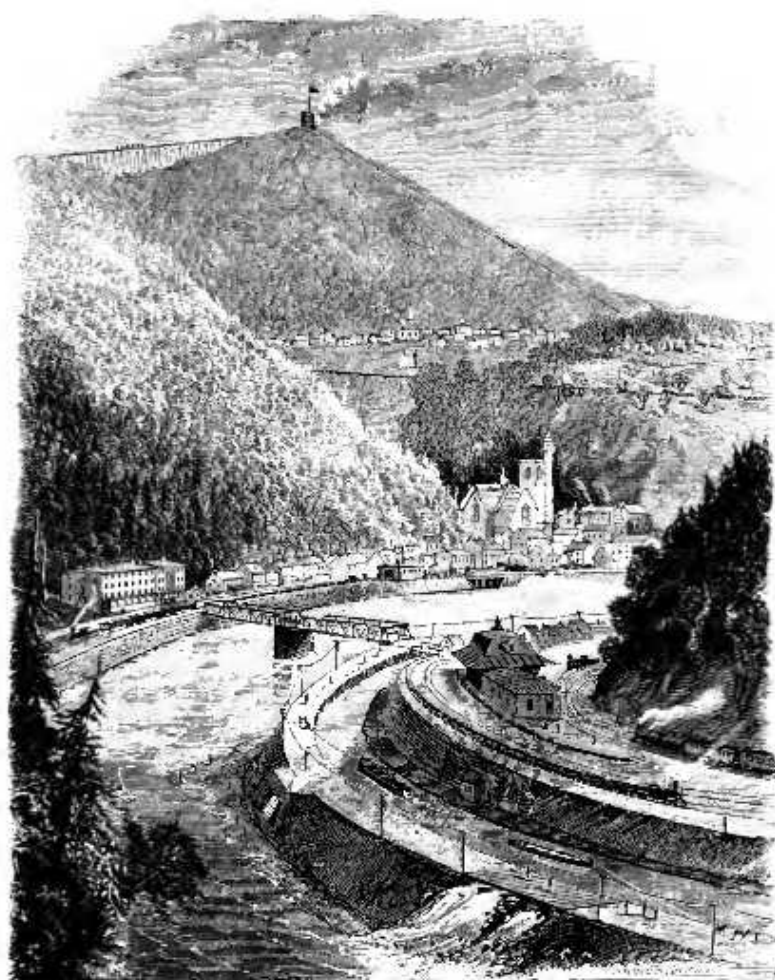


LEHIGH GAP.

former: indeed, to be quite honest about it, we were all glad to have an excuse for a ten days' excursion in a region which promised so much outdoor entertainment. And the promise was kept. Such another ten days of rough-and-tumble experience—climbing mountains, falling over rocks, exploring wild ravines, diving into coal-mines, riding on every description of conveyance which it has entered into the mind of man to invent to run on rail—such enormous eating when we found an inn, and such extravagant sleeping when the day was done,—I doubt if any of the party had ever experienced before.

The direct route from Philadelphia to the Lehigh Valley and the Switchback Railroad is up the North Pennsylvania Road, usually called the "North Penn," for short. This road carries you north-

ward on a smooth, well-ballasted track, through a pleasant farming-country, but shows you few points where you will care to spend much time in sight-seeing. If you are wise, you will elect, as we did, to be a through passenger. It terminates at Bethlehem, and is there met by two roads which run side by side up the narrow valley of the Lehigh, and open to the traveler one of the most delightful short-trip routes in America. Fifty years ago the valley was a wilderness, with one narrow wagon-road crawling at the base of the hills beside a mountain-torrent which defied all attempts to navigate it. Now, the mountain-walls make room for two railroads and a canal, but the tawny waters of the stream are nearly as free as ever. Here and there, indeed, a curb restrains them, and once an elaborate system of dams



MAUCH CHUNK FROM THE MOUNTAIN-ROAD.

and locks tamed the wild river, and made it from Mauch Chunk to White Haven a succession of deep and tranquil pools. But one day in 1862 the waters rose in their might. Every dam was broken, every restraint swept away, and from White Haven to Mauch Chunk the stream ran free once more. The mem-

ory of that fearful day is still fresh in the minds of the dwellers in the valley, and the bed of the torrent is still strewn with the wrecks that went down before its wrath. The Lehigh Company, who had planned and constructed this magnificent system of slackwater navigation, looked on in silent dismay, saw the labor of years vanish in a moment, shook their heads, and—proceeded to build a railroad. After that day's experience they felt as if they could never trust the river again.