

the mountain itself as well as by the cliff, that but little direct sunshine is received, and that only in midsummer. Until then it is only necessary to throw aside a few blocks of stone in order to reach the ice, but as the season advances it retreats further and further until late summer when it is generally so deep that it is inaccessible except by a great deal of labor. But its presence is shown by the low temperature of the rocks and the surrounding air. Bending low in any of these ice holes one's breath quickly becomes visible, as on a winter's day in the frosty air. No ice could be seen at the date of my last visit, August 28th, but old residents in the vicinity are quite positive that in some years ice has been taken out during the entire season, although it was necessary to dig deep for it during August and September.

While a large part of this talus is completely bare, there are portions of it which support a poor growth of the ordinary trees and shrubs of the vicinity. But near its base are found, particularly, our Mountain Ash (*Pyrus Americana*), Canoe Birch (*Betula Papyracea*) and *Ribes prostratum*, none of which are common elsewhere in the neighborhood, except at occasional points at greater elevation. Of humbler plants, *Heuchera pubescens* and the before mentioned *Linnaea borealis* are the most conspicuous, the latter, in great profusion and of marked vigor, spreading widely under the adjacent pines and hemlocks, where it seems perfectly at home. One can scarcely imagine a more perfect example of a high northern flora localized on a few square rods, because of favorable temperature conditions.

As if to give emphasis to this little boreal colony among the rocks, there is found scarce two hundred yards away, a narrow interval bordering the stream, which here makes another abrupt turn. Upon this alluvial bottom grow a score or more of vigorous Papaws (*Asimina triloba*), with trunks six, eight and ten inches in diameter. Their lustrous dark green and pendant leaves mark them at a distance as distinct from any other native tree, and suggest a grove of Horse Chestnuts.

They must have been here a long time, for they seem perfectly established, fruit readily, and young trees are not uncommon. One such clump, strangely placed high and dry on the border of the dusty pike a short distance away, seems quite successful in its struggle for existence. Professor Porter, of Lafayette college, long ago told me that the Papaw followed the Juniata, and was found at the mouth of Spruce Creek. I know of no others to the north, and infer that these mark the furthest point for this species in the mountain districts.

A grove of stately white pines completes the attractions of this unique place, which is a favorite picnicing ground for the neighborhood. In the early summer such parties frequently make ice cream on the spot, using the ice taken out of the holes among the rocks.

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### THE RETURN.

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To my childhoods home again I came,  
It was as yet the same old home,  
The breezes and songs were still the same,  
All else was changed since I did roam.

As of old the waves rushed o'er the stones,  
The deer sprang from the forests track,  
From far off sounded the curfew's tones,  
The sea reflected the mountains back.

There was the place, where in former days  
The mother met us at the gate,  
But now I saw there strange men and ways,  
How sad, how sad then seemed my fate!

It seemed, that a voice from out the waves  
Cried, "Go, and always this place shun!  
Those whom thou hast loved are in their graves,  
And never to this place return!"

(From the German of Lingg.)

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### POPULAR TALKS ON LAW.

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*When is a contract by Correspondence Complete.*

As a first requisite to the forming of a valid contract, there must be a meeting of minds of the parties thereto. An offer can be revoked before its acceptance, but after the acceptance the offer becomes a promise. The time of acceptance of