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Mount  
Lowe

George Wharton James

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ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**MOUNTAINS.**

Centuries old are the mountains;  
Their foreheads wrinkled and rifted,  
Helios crowns by day,  
Pallid, serene by night;  
From their bosoms uptossed  
The snows are driven and drifted  
Like Lithonus' beard  
Streaming, disheveled and white.  
Thunder and tempest of wind  
Their trumpets blow in the vastness;  
Phantoms of mist and rain,  
Cloud and the shadow of cloud,  
Pass and repass by the gates  
Of their inaccessible fastness;  
Ever unmoved they stand,  
Solemn, eternal and proud.  
—Longfellow

in "The Mask of Pandora."

**CONTENTS.**

	<b>PAG</b>
	<b>E</b>
Mountains, by Longfellow	<u>4</u>
Man's Love for the Mountains	<u>7</u>
Distinguished Testimony	<u>13</u>
Mount Lowe Railway	<u>21</u>
Origin of the Mount Lowe Railway	<u>23</u>
Rubio Canyon	<u>27</u>
Great Cable Incline	<u>29</u>
Echo Mountain	<u>31</u>
Echo Mountain House	<u>33</u>
Lowe Observatory	<u>35</u>
Professor Larkin	<u>38</u>
The Spectroscope	<u>43</u>
Great World's Fair Searchlight	<u>47</u>
Operating Machinery of Great Cable Incline	<u>49</u>
Glen Canyon	<u>51</u>
Mount Lowe Eight	<u>53</u>
Phantom Sea	<u>55</u>
Alpine Division	<u>57</u>
Nature and Art	<u>59</u>
Magnificent Views	<u>61</u>
Circular Bridge	<u>65</u>
Alpine Club House, Hanging of the Crane	<u>69</u>
Benefits of Mountain Climbing	<u>79</u>
Health Gained in the Mountains	<u>83</u>
Mountain Canyon in the Winter	<u>85</u>
Flora of Mount Lowe	<u>88</u>
Coast Islands from Mount Lowe	<u>93</u>
Looking from Mount Lowe Over the Valley	<u>94</u>
From Alpine Snow to Semi-Tropical Sea	<u>96</u>
From the Mountains to the Sea	<u>102</u>
Dawn on Mount Lowe	<u>104</u>
Tri-Crested Summit of Mount Lowe	<u>106</u>
A Forest of Pines	<u>106</u>
The Name	<u>107</u>
How to See Mount Lowe	<u>110</u>
Summer on Mount Lowe	<u>112</u>
The Summing Up	<u>114</u>
The Beauties of Mount Lowe	<u>115</u>
Other Picturesque Trips on the Pacific Electric Railway	<u>116</u>
Long Beach	<u>116</u>
Whittier	<u>119</u>



**Alpine Scenery in Winter on Shoulders of Mount Lowe.**

[Pg 7]

**THE MOUNT LOWE DIVISION    PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY**



**Scenic Mount Lowe    Man's Love for Mountains.**

In all ages of the world man has been a lover of mountains. Ruskin says, "Mountains are the beginning and the end of all natural scenery," hence it is natural that man should love them and that they should exercise great and potent influence upon him. Carmel, Ararat, Hor, Horeb, Nebo, Sinai, Olivet, Hermon, Calvary, and others have left—through the literature of the Bible—ineffaceable impressions upon the highest civilizations of the world. All oriental literature abounds in references to mountains, and men were incited to lives of majesty, power, and purity by contemplation of them.

Every student of Japanese literature knows the influence Fuji Yama has had upon the destinies of that thoughtful nation. Life in the mountains of Afghanistan, Beloochistan and Northern India transformed the calm, meditative, pastoral Hindoos into active, impulsive, warlike peoples, whose movements resemble somewhat the fierce storms that play upon their mountain summits or the wild winds that whirl down their canyons.

[Pg 8]



**Robert T. Lincoln and Other Distinguished Visitors in the Snow near Echo Mountain, Mount Lowe Railway.**

[Pg 9]

The mountain traditions of Europe would fill many large volumes, and the folk-lore of the peasantry, as to how they came by their names, makes most fascinating reading.

Who is there that cannot discern—what Sir Walter Scott so forcibly presents—the influence upon the national character of the Scots and the Swiss exercised by the rugged, bold and snow-crowned mountains of their native lands? And the proverbial

philosophy of both these peoples contains many coins with a mountain superscription.

There is scarcely a poet of any age or clime whose soul since Homer made Olympus the home of the gods and Parnassus the seat of poesy, has not thankfully accepted the uplift of mountain influence.

Of nearly all the true, pure, heroic souls of history one could exclaim: "He made him friends of mountains," and we read with thrilling delight the thoughts inspired by mountains in Homer, Virgil, Dante, Goethe, Schiller, Moliere, Fenelon, Bourdaloue, Massillon, Wordsworth, Browning, Agassiz, Winchell, Clarence King, LeConte and others.

[Pg 10]



**White Chariot Ascending from Rubio Canyon.**

On Sinai's rugged brow it was, amid heaven's awful thunders, God showed Himself to Moses, and, through him to mankind, in the two tables of the law. On Hor's solitary peak He condescended to place the priestly Aaron in his tomb. On Carmel, His servant, the dauntless Elijah called for fire, and God responded with the devouring

[Pg 11]

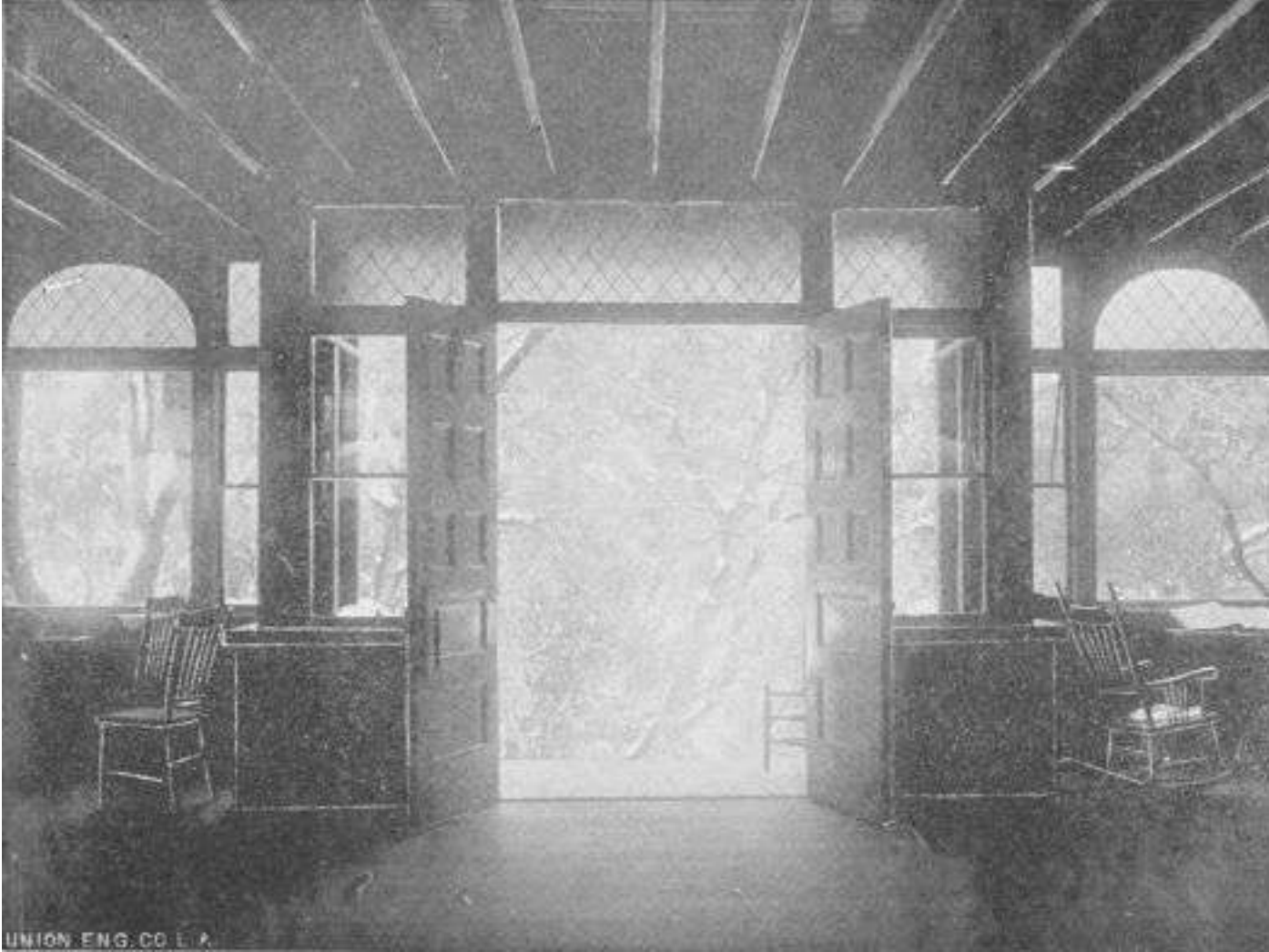
element from heaven. On Ararat, above the drowned world, the family that was to re-people the earth, started after their long confinement in their floating home. On Pisgah, Moses stood to survey the promised land. On Hermon Christ's

transfiguration took place. On Hattin He proclaimed the beatitudes. On Calvary He was crucified, and on Olivet He ascended.

While the exigencies of business and commerce have made it necessary for the large majority of people to dwell on level plains or on the shores of the ocean, the greatest peoples and the nations which have longest maintained their independence have been those which inhabited mountainous sections, and breathed the pure air of the higher altitudes. The purest patriotism, the highest intellectual attainments, the greatest love of family, and the most perfect physical development have been found among people who were inspired by the grandeur of mountain scenery. The clinging faith and stern patriotism of the Hebrews were the result of their love of the mountains of Palestine; the love of the Greeks for the mountains on which they lived gave them the intellectual and physical vigor which enabled them to roll back the Persian hosts; the sunny mountains of Italy were an inspiration to the Romans which enabled them to rule the world, and the heroism of the Swiss in preserving their national autonomy in spite of all Europe, is the most illustrious example of what has been the history of all mountaineers. Mountains are the barriers which have preserved nations from destruction, and national borders generally run parallel with mountain ranges.

[Pg 12]





**Looking Through Open Door of Alpine Tavern, Mount Lowe.**

[Pg 13]

**Distinguished Testimony.**

As a specimen of many such testimonials which have been publicly given in regard to the popularity of the Mount Lowe Railway, I append herewith portions of an admirable letter written by the Hon. W. C. Patterson, late President of Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, to its membership. The date is September 27, 1895. He said: "In the interest of my health and for the sake of most exquisite recuperation and enjoyment, I have made thus far thirty-nine visits to Echo Mountain, and several trips to the summit of Mount Lowe. I have also passed three or four times over the matchless five miles' extension which is called the 'Alpine Division,' and which extends to Mount Lowe Springs, where is situated Alpine tavern, an altitude of 5,000 feet above sea level.

"The Mount Lowe Railway, which enables one to penetrate the very heart of the Sierras with entire ease and comfort, has no counterpart in the world, either to the originality of its conception, the solution of what has been heretofore considered impossible engineering problems, or the indescribable picturesqueness of the ever-changing scenery through which it passes.

"Any one who makes a single visit becomes full of enthusiasm, but mine has grown cumulative to such an extent that language seems utterly inadequate. As I have witnessed the results of Professor Lowe's great genius, enterprise, and perseverance, and have studied his personality, I am more and more impressed with the belief that he is an unique character, and one of the great men of this progressive age.

[Pg 14]



Professor

**Lowe Addressing his Guests on the Suspended Boulder, Rubio Canyon.**

[Pg 15]

"It is a matter of intense surprise to me, and almost disgust, that so few of our own people right here in sight of our beautiful Sierra Madre, have availed themselves of the opportunities which he has opened for studying their more than Alpine beauties, their inexhaustible and intensely interesting geological and botanical resources, to say nothing of the benefits to be derived from the delicious mountain air, freighted as it is with sweet odors and buoyant exhilaration.

"These mountains are not, as many suppose, barren and bare. Vegetation extends to the very summit, more than 6,000 feet above the sea level, and the flora which abounds is a surprise, both as to its beauty and variety. The Alpine extension passes and repasses through delightful and romantic oak groves, and through forests of stalwart pines. Prof. Lowe's discovery of the existence of a quiet, steady, clear atmosphere suggested to him the idea of establishing in these mountains scientific institutions, especially astronomical and meteorological. The former science has already been installed in the splendid observatory, which is presided over by a distinguished astronomer, who nightly delivers free lectures illustrated by glimpses of the heavenly wonders through the great telescope. This observatory has already achieved a world-wide reputation, and from the superior conditions of the atmosphere in which it is placed, numerous discoveries have already been made, while other similar institutions have made no progress. It is said that for astronomical purposes, similar atmospheric conditions can scarcely anywhere else be found.

[Pg 17]

These mountain peaks ascend almost abruptly from the ocean level, and in the great valleys adjacent the fogs and mists settle, leaving the air clear and transparent. The cool ocean breezes modify the effect of the sun's rays during the day and reverse the currents at night, whereby the atmosphere is, as it were, drawn from the desert over the higher ranges—nearly twelve thousand feet in height—having such cooling effects that the waves and tremors so annoying to astronomers in other localities are entirely absent.



**Ready**  
**for the Ascent to Echo Mountain.**

"There exists in the minds of Eastern people an impression that Southern California is a hot climate, especially in summer. This impression arises from a variety of

causes. Many assume that oranges grow only in hot countries. This is not necessarily true. They will not mature in cold climates, but they will thrive luxuriantly in mild climates. It is said that in Florida, where the summer climate is hot and sultry, oranges mature in six months, whereas a year is required in California. Another cause for the existence of a false impression as to our summer lies in the fact that heretofore some of our large hotels, which were owned by Eastern capitalists who control Eastern summer resorts closed their doors about the first of May, which is really just the period when our climate becomes the most delightful. Even when our inland districts become somewhat warm there is always delicious relief to be found at the seashore or in the mountains. It would seem strange to those not familiar with the fact that the mildest and most equable portion of our climate is found at altitudes of three to

[Pg 19]

four thousand feet. Those who visited Echo Mountain during the last winter may remember that delicate flowers flourished, while at an elevation of a thousand or fifteen hundred feet above snow fell to a depth of several inches and remained in the bright sunshine but dry atmosphere several days without melting. This has made possible an interesting experience, by which within thirty minutes after leaving the beautiful flowers of Echo Mountain and the valley below one can enjoy a sleigh ride among the pines in the vicinity of 'ye Alpine tavern.' The mountain atmosphere during the full six months is so mild and dry and pure that one could sleep in the open air without the least danger of taking cold.

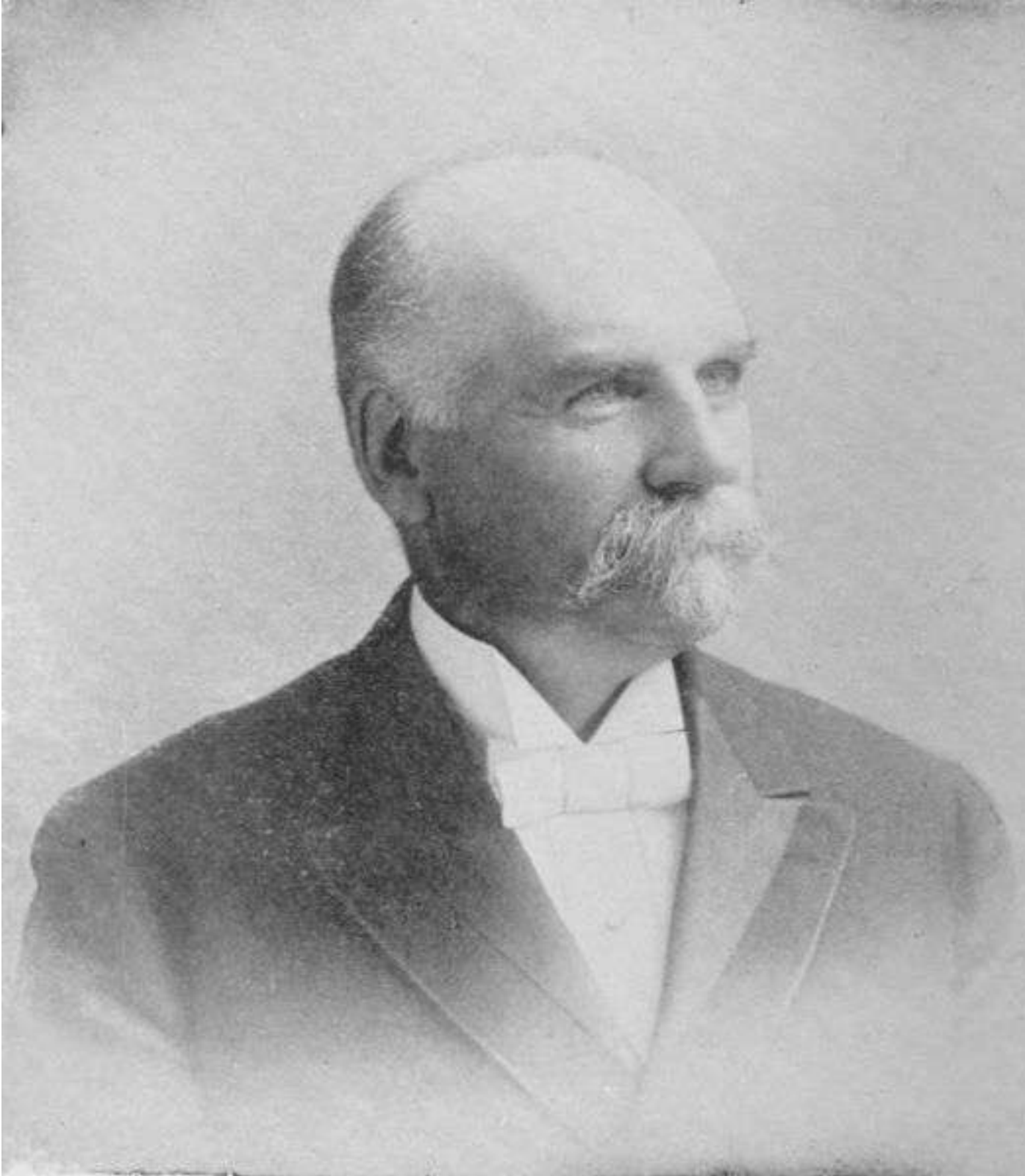


**Hon. R. T. Lincoln, Marshall Field, and Other Distinguished Visitors in White Chariot of Great Cable Incline, Mount Lowe.**

"I can guarantee that every person who goes over the Mount Lowe Railway from end to end will want to repeat the experiment and will urge his friends to go. The enterprise should have the hearty co-operation of all people interested in literary and scientific progress.

"The mountains of Switzerland, especially since the advent of mountain railroads, have made that country, with all its climatic drawbacks, a Mecca for tourists from all over the world. When the beauties and attractions of the Sierra Madre are fully made known why may not a large percentage of this vast tourist travel be attracted to our very midst?"

[Pg 20]



**PROF. T. S. C. LOWE.**  
[Pg 21]





**Group of Alders near Mount Lowe Springs.  
The Mount Lowe Railway.**

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