



Glimpses of the White River Valley, Vermont: West Hartford, Sharon, South Royalton, Royalton (Classic Reprint)

G. A. Cheney

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Excerpt from *Glimpses of the White River Valley, Vermont: West Hartford, Sharon, South Royalton, Royalton*

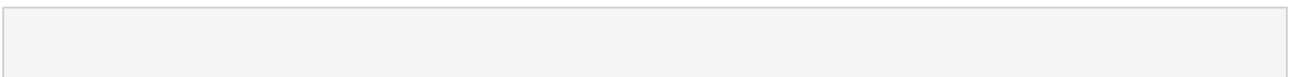
Rising amid the eastern foothills of the Green Mountains and picking its way through hidden glen and tree-embowered valley, now nestling in the shadow of some majestic hill, and again, as if it would seek companionship with all the phases of nature, cutting in twain some broad extending intervals, and all the while swelling the volume of its waters, the White River flows in a southeasterly direction until at White River Junction it loses its identity in a union with the larger Connecticut. From its sources to its junction with New England's largest stream, the White River in itself is an object, glimpses of which quicken the most thrilling interest and invite the contemplation of even the indifferent. Truthfully it may be said that throughout its length it typifies the original human life and character that built and dwelt along its banks and their adjacent territory; rarely fitful and impetuous in its current, yet never stagnant nor languid, but moving along, accomplishing, accumulating, powerful, yet gentle in its waxing strength, and ever remarkable for purity and freedom from contamination of any nature. Its bed from sources to mouth and from shore to shore, is visible to the eye, because of the transparency of those waters that give to the river its appropriate name. Purity, strength, harmony, and beauty of action were dominant traits of the first inhabitants of this valley, and likewise are they characteristic of the river, and while those earlier descendants of Pilgrim and Puritan have closed their earthly days, the river flows on the same as a century and a half ago.

And what of the physical characteristics of the valley through which the river flows? First, it is a valley in fact as well as in name. Due emphasis should be placed upon the fact that its aspect is toward the southeast, toward the rising and warming sun, while long, extending hills guard it from the relentless north winds. It is emphatically a realm of sunshine and warmth, and down the hillsides flow innumerable rivulets and brooks, the crystalline waters of which bear testimony that the soils of the valley are rich in those elements that unite in forming rich herbage, grain, fruits and vegetables, that impart to the grasses of meadow and pasture those nutrients that in turn make the milk and butter and cheese of the valley unapproachable in quality and substance.

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