

CHAPTER V.

Wooded Ridges of the Alleghany Mountains.—German Patois in Pennsylvania.—Lehigh Summit Mine.—Effects of Ice during a Flood on the Delaware.—Election of a Governor at Trenton and at Philadelphia.—Journey to Boston.—Autumnal Tints of the Foliage.—Boston the Seat of Commerce, of Government, and of a University.—Lectures at the Lowell Institute.—Influence of oral Instruction in Literature and Science.—Fees of Public Lecturers.—Educational Funds sunk in costly Buildings.—Advantages of anti-building Clauses.—Blind Asylum.—Lowell Factories.—National Schools.—Equality of Sects.—Society in Boston.

October 7. 1841.—THE steep slopes, as well as the summits of the ridges in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, are so densely covered with wood, that the surveyors were obliged to climb to the tops of trees, in order to obtain general views of the country, and construct a geographical map on the scale of two inches to a mile, on which they laid down the result of their geological observations. Under the trees, the ground is covered with the *Rhododendron*, *Kalmia* and another evergreen called Sweet Fern (*Comptonia asplenifolia*), the leaves of which have a very agreeable odour, resembling that of our bog-myrtle (*Myrica Gale*), but fainter. The leaves are so like those of a fern or *Pteris* in form, that the miners call the impressions of the fossil *Pecopteris*, in the coal-shales “sweet fern.”

We found the German language chiefly spoken in this mountainous region, and preached in most of the churches, as at Reading. It is fast degenerating into a patois, and it is amusing to see many Germanized English words introduced even into the newspapers,