

fallen crags that would have been easy enough to surmount with free hands and feet, but which acquired in our eyes a novel importance from the difficulty of getting a horse over them. Nevertheless, every obstacle was successfully overcome. We climbed the opposite side of the valley, as far as it was practicable to take the horses, and then, leaving them in charge of "Dan," scaled the crags and steep slopes of *débris*. We were soon above the limit of tree-growth, and emerged at last on a broad bare plateau between 11,000 and 12,000 feet above the sea.

The structure of the Uintah Mountains has been investigated by several surveying parties under the Engineer and Interior Departments. Having read the reports of the Hayden, Powell, and King surveys, I was now able to take in, with comparative ease, the general aspect and meaning of the magnificent panorama around us. The broad central mass of the range is constructed of a flat arch of dull-red sandstones. The isolated peaks and ranges of buttressed cliffs along this part of the mountains reveal everywhere the horizontality of their component strata. Like the Bad Lands, but on a far more magnificent scale, they have been cut into their present forms by atmospheric sculpturing. Originally the rocks stretched in an unbroken sheet across the mountains; but in the course of ages this continuous mantle has been enormously eroded. Deep and wide valleys, vast amphitheatres, lofty terraced alcoves, and profound gorges, fretted with an infinite array of peaks, buttresses, pinnacles, columns, obelisks, and endless forms which defy the observer to find properly descriptive names for them, have gradually been carved out of these rocks. Isolated cones, with singularly majestic architectural forms, have been left standing in the midst of the denudation as monuments of its greatness. The world can show few