

by the frost, but not disturbed or rounded by water.¹ Behind us is the deep trench-like ravine out of which we have climbed ; on the left hand a long row of secondary summits stretching out from Mount Washington to the south-westward, and designated by the names of a series of American statesmen. In front this range descends abruptly in great wooded spurs or buttresses to the valley of the Amonoosook, which shines in silvery spots through the trees far below. On our right hand towers the peak of Mount Washington, still more than a thousand feet above us, and covered with angular blocks, as if it were a pile of fragments rather than a solid rock. These stones all around and up to the summit of the mountain, are tinted pale green by the map lichen (*Lecidea geographica*), which tinges in the same way the alpine summits of European mountains. Between the blocks and on their sheltered sides nestle the alpine flowering plants, of which twenty species or more may be collected on this shoulder of the mountain, and some of which extend themselves to the very summit, where *Alsine Grænlandica* and the little tufts of deep green leaves of *Diapensia Lapponica* with a few *Carices* seem to luxuriate. Animal life accompanies these plants to the summit, near which I saw a family of the snow bird, evidently summer residents here, instead of seeking the far north for a breeding place, as is the habit of the species, and a number of insects, conspicuous among which was a brown butterfly of the genus *Hipparchia*. Shortly before sundown, when the thermometer at the summit house was fast settling toward the freezing point, a number of swallows were hawking for flies at a great height above the highest peak. To what

¹ Hitchcock has since found travelled blocks on the summit, bearing evidence to its submergence under the waves of the glacial sea, and to the grinding of ice floes upon it. Such a fact helps to account for the broken character of the summit, and also implies that unequal subsidence of the land elsewhere referred to, since we know of no agency which could carry boulders so high as the present mountain top.