

## AN ASCENT OF MOUNT ARARAT.

The View From the Summit of the Mountain of the Ark.

At last we stood upon the summit of Ararat, but the sun no longer pierced the white vapor; a fierce gale drove across the forbidden region and whipped the eye, straining to distinguish the limits of snow and cloud. Vague forms hurried; ast on the winds of the whirlwind; in place of the landscape of the land of promise we searched dense banks of fog.

We were standing on the spot where the ark of gopher rested, where first the patriarch alighted on the face of an earth renewed. Before him lay the valleys of 600 years of sorrow. The airiest pinnacle supported him; a boundless hope filled his eyes. The pulse of life beat strong and fresh around him; the busy swarms thrilled with sweet freedom, elect of all living things. In the settling exhalations stood the bow of many colors, eternal token of God's covenant with man.

Although the summit of Great Ararat, which has an elevation of 17,916 feet, yields in height to the peaks of the Caucasus in the north and to Demavend (19,400 feet) in the east, nearly 500 miles away, yet, as Bryce in his admirable book has observed, there can be but few other places in the world where a mountain so lofty rises from a plain so low. The summit of Great Ararat has the form of a dome and is covered with perpetual snow; this dome crowns an oval figure, the length of which is from northwest to southeast, and it is therefore the long side of this dome which you see from the valley of the Araxes. On the southeast, as you follow the outline farther, the slope falls at a more rapid gradient of from 30 to 35 degrees and ends in the saddle between the two mountains at a height of nearly 9,000 feet.

From that point it is the shape of the Little Ararat, which continues the outline toward the east. It rises in the shape of a graceful pyramid to the height of 12,840 feet, and its summit is distant from that of Great Ararat a space of nearly seven miles. The southeastern slope of the lesser Ararat corresponds to the northwestern slope of the greater mountain and descends to the floor of the river valley in a long and regular train. The unity of the whole fabric, the intimate correspondence of the parts between themselves, in a word the architectural qualities of this natural work at once impress the eye and continue to provide an inexhaustible fund of study, however long may be the period of your stay. —Scribner's.