

## MOUNT SHASTA.

The noblest mountain in the United States is Shasta. It is said that Whitney is higher, but Whitney has for its base the Sierra Nevadas, and the peaks around it dwarf its own tremendous height. But Shasta rises from the plain a single mountain, and while all the year around the lambs gambol at its base its crown is the eternal snow. In the hot summer days as the farmers at Shasta's base gather their crops they can see where the wild wind heaps the snow drifts about his crest. The mountain is one of winter's stations, and from his forts of snow upon its top he never withdraws his garrison. There are the bastions of ice, the frosty towers; there his old bugler, the wind, is daily sounding the advance and the retreat of the storm. The mountain holds all latitudes and all seasons at the same time in its grasp. Flowers bloom at its base, further up the forest trees wave their ample arms; further still the brown of autumn is upon the mountain slopes, and over all hangs the eternal winter. Standing close to the mountain's base the human eye and mind fails to grasp the immensity of the mountain. But as one from a distance looks back upon it he discovers how magnificent is the height. For days will the mountain fold the mist about its crest like a veil and remain hidden from mortal sight, and then suddenly, as if in deference

to a rising or setting sun, will roll back the vapors and the watcher in the valley below will behold gems of topaz and of ruby made of sunbeams set in the diadem of white, and toward the

sentinel mountain from a hundred miles around men will turn their eyes in admiration. Thus it frowns and smiles alternately through the years; it hails the incoming and outgoing centuries,

MT. SHASTA—SUMMIT 14,440 FEET ABOVE THE SEA. As seen from the Oregon and California Stage Road.

