

A Pleasant Trip.

Cedar Rock and Its Environs Well Worth a Visit.

We have been talking to two of our most prominent young business men, Messrs. F. L. DeVane and J. W. McMinn, about their recent trip to Cedar Rock and the nearby points of interest and we think their account well worth publishing. Neither of them had ever been to that section before and it was therefore deemed advisable to secure the services of a guide to pilot them to the most interesting points and by the shortest trails. The start was made from Brevard early in the morning and the King's Creek and Bubbling Springs trail was the route chosen.

The famous Bubbling Springs were reached in due season and quite a stop was made there for the purpose of examining this wonderful freak of nature and to fill the water bottles with aqua pura before making the tiresome ascent of the rock, this spring being the nearest water. In passing it is well worth the extra trouble to visit this spring, which is a bold stream of water issuing from the rock-ribbed side of the mountain, clear, cool and tasteless but yet there is a continuous stream of bubbles ever rising from the bottom, not in a regular stream but sometimes nearly stopping and then again rushing up with geyser-like bursts. Some enterprising citizen should have the water analyzed as it may be found to contain valuable medicinal properties. The party after refreshing themselves at the spring began the ascent and eventually reached the top, having made many stops while climbing the ladder-like trail.

But whatever fatigue existed while making the climb it immediately disappeared in its vastness, in its beauty, and in its unsurpassed extent. In but few other regions can such a changing view be obtained, for from the top of the Rock one can see the entire Pisgah range, the Balsam range and the greater part of the Smokies. By simply turning around can be seen Mount Toxaway and its surrounding peaks and also the beautiful valley of the French Broad for many miles, with its broad and fertile acres winding its sinuous way to the lower levels; and yet by little extra effort can be seen Brevard, the glittering jewel set in this encircling ring of lofty mountain chains, nestling under the protecting sides of the nearby peaks, sheltered alike from the piercing blasts of winter and the sweltering glare of the summer sun by the everlasting wall of mountains, clothed with primeval forests to their topmost points. And then from Cedar Rock one can get a view of nearly all of Vanderbilt's great Pisgah Forest. Could we but get enough of our Congressmen to see this view, which is but one of many, there would be but little trouble in passing the Appalachian Park bill.

There is another interesting fact in connection with Cedar Rock, and that is the element of danger that can be added to the zest of mountain climbing, for although there are two trails that one can ride to the very top on horseback, yet if so minded one can come down over certain parts of the sides, where a false step means death by being hurled over precipices to the jagged rocks lying far below in the dark canyons of Dismal creek on the

side and Cathey's creek on the other. Our party chose the descent on the Cathey's creek side and by taking the least precipitous route were able to make the descent in about an hour of careful and perilous climbing, having to take advantage of every projecting point or indentation and in many instances of lowering oneself by the use of long withes, no ropes being in the party. Many times were they tempted to retrace their steps but the ascent seemed more perilous and the descent had to be continued.

This is one of the points that our visitors should see, being only five miles distant from Brevard and can be reached either on horseback or foot. Our travelers then decided, after reaching the base of the rock safely, to come home by a circuitous path so as to take in some of the other points of interest, the route leading them over the steepest parts of Cagle, down the dark and quiet waters of Konnaheet, up and over the precipitous sides of Tiaroga, through the glades of Wanteska to Ossowee plateau, then to the summit of Ossaroga from which a closer and more beautiful view of the valley lying far below was obtained, the trail then leading down to the more quiet waters of the Wanteska.

The party reached Brevard about 8:30 after a day of rare sport and much enjoyment and the efficient guide was dismissed with many expressions of lasting regards and gratitude for the delightful trip he had so well planned and for the thorough knowledge of woodcraft and allied sciences which he had displayed. From what we can hear the reports made by the gentlemen mentioned have caused quite a number of our citizens to agitate the formation of an Alpine Club, not only for the purpose of pleasure, but also for the purpose of exploring many of the little known mountains of this section and creating a public interest in them. We hope that it will come to be a reality—we know too little of the natural beauties of our Western North Carolina and we cannot give our visitors any satisfactory account of our natural resources when we are ignorant of them ourselves.

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