

## **Werk**

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is the junction of lines to Macon, Lula (p. 359), and various other points. — 684 M. *Lawrenceville*; 701 M. *Tucker*; 716 M. *Howells*.  
720 M. *Atlanta*, and thence to —  
1216 M. *New Orleans*, see R. 69 a.

## 70. From Salisbury to Asheville and Morristown.

228 M. SOUTHERN RAILWAY to (141 M) *Asheville* in  $4\frac{1}{4}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. (fare \$4.60; sleeper \$2); to (228 M.) *Morristown* in 7-9 hrs. (fare \$7.30; sleeper \$2). From New York to *Asheville* in 22 hrs. (fare \$21.45; sleeper \$5)

This railway gives access to the beautiful scenery of Western North Carolina ('Land of the Sky'), which may be described as a plateau with an average altitude of 2000 ft., 250 M. long and 25 M. wide, bounded by the *Great Smoky Mts.* (p. 332) on the W. and by the *Blue Ridge* (p. 379) on the E. It is crossed by several spurs of the main chain, including the *Black*, the *Balsam*, the *Pisgah*, the *Cowee*, and the *Nantahala* ranges. Many of these are higher than the main chains, the *Black Mts.* alone containing 19 peaks over 6000 ft. in height. The district is watered by numerous rivers that rise in the *Blue Ridge* and flow with a steep decline and rapid current across this plateau, cutting through the *Great Smokies* on their way to the *Mississippi*. The *French Broad*, the *Pigeon*, the *Tuckasegee*, and the *Little Tennessee* are the chief of these. In this way the country is cross-sectioned into many smaller valleys, affording endless variety of scenery. The fact that even the highest mountains are densely wooded to their tops adds much to the picturesqueness and softens the outlines of the landscape.

*Salisbury*, see p. 375. Beyond (26 M.) *Statesville* (955 ft.) we cross the *Catawba*. The main *Blue Ridge* (p. 379) soon comes into sight on the right, while various spurs are seen in the distance to the left. 48 M. *Newton* (1070 ft.). — 58 M. *Hickory* (1140 ft.; Hickory Inn, \$2-3, meal 75 c.).

From *Hickory* a narrow-gauge railway runs to (20 M.) *Lenoir* (Merchants' Hotel, \$2), whence a drive of 4 hrs. brings us to *Blowing Rock* (*Green Park Ho.*, *Blowing Rock Ho.*, \$2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), 2 M. from the famous precipice and mountain of this name (4000 ft.). The "View from the latter is superb, including the *Grandfather* (5895 ft.) on the W., the *Pilot Mt.* (2435 ft.), 100 M. to the E., *King's Mt.* (1050 ft.) to the S., and *Mitchell's Peak* (p. 387) to the N. There are several pretty waterfalls and other points of interest in the vicinity.

To the left, at (79 M.) *Morganton* (1185 ft.), is the large State Lunatic Asylum. We enter the mountain-district proper at (111 M.) *Old Fort* (1450 ft.) and ascend abruptly through a romantic gorge, with its rocky mountain-walls overgrown by rhododendrons (in blossom in June). The engineering of the railway here is interesting, with its numerous loops, tunnels, cuttings, and bridges; at one point four sections of the line lie perpendicularly one above the other. At the head of the gorge we thread a long tunnel and reach the plateau of *Western North Carolina* (see above). 125 M. *Black Mt. Station*; 139 M. *Biltmore* (see p. 387).

141 M. *Asheville*. — HOTELS. \**Battery Park Hotel*, on a hill above the town, from \$4; \**Kenilworth Inn*, 2 M. from Asheville, near Biltmore, see above, \$5; *The Oaks*, \$2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3; *Swannanoa*, \$2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; *Berkeley*, \$2-3; *Glen Rock*, \$2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . — *Electric Tramway* to the station (1 $\frac{1}{2}$  M. from the centre of the town) and to the suburbs (5 c.).

*Asheville* (2350 ft.), finely situated at the junction of the *Swan-*

*nanoa* and the *French Broad*, is the chief town of the district and is widely known as a health-resort for patients suffering from pulmonary and other ailments. Pop. (1890) 10,235. About 70,000 persons visit Asheville annually, Southerners frequenting it for its comparative coolness in summer (mean temp. 72°) and Northerners for its mildness in winter (39°) and spring (53°; chief seasons, July and Aug., Feb. and March). Its climate is dry and bright, and there are usually few days in the year in which out-door exercise is not enjoyable. It is said to be pre-eminently suitable for early stages of phthisis, while sufferers from asthma, hay fever, nervous prostration, and the after-effects of fever all derive benefit from a sojourn in Asheville. The environs are full of scenic attractions and offer abundant opportunities for pleasant walks, rides, and drives.

**WALKS.** *Beaumont*, 1/2 M. to the E.; grounds open to visitors. — *Fernhurst*, 1 1/2 M. to the S., overlooking the junction of the Swannanoa and the French Broad (open daily, Sun. excepted). — *Richmond Hill*, 2 1/2 M. to the N.W. (always open). — *Gouche's Peak* (3 M.) and *Elk Mt.* (5 M.), to the N. of the town, are fine points of view. — About 2 M. to the S.E. of Asheville, near Biltmore station (p. 386), is \**Biltmore*, the home of Mr. George W. Vanderbilt and probably the finest private residence in America. The house, built in the French baronial style by Mr. Richard M. Hunt, at a cost of \$4,000,000, stands upon a terrace 700 ft. long by 300 ft. wide and commands magnificent views. It contains much fine tapestry and other works of art. Many miles of beautiful drives have been constructed in the grounds, which have an extent of over 100,000 acres, and they show a wonderfully varied display of trees (views). Visitors are admitted to the grounds on Wed. & Sat., 1-7 p. m., by passes obtained at the hotels or at the Biltmore Office, near the entrance-gate (large excursion-parties not admitted). Special passes sometimes issued for other days.

**DRIVES.** *Swannanoa Drive*, extending for several miles along the river, the banks of which are thickly wooded and covered with rhododendrons, kalmia, and other wild flowers. — *Tahkeostee Farm*, 3-5 M. to the W. — The *Sulphur Springs*, 4 1/2 M. to the S., may be reached by electric car (fare 15 c.). — \**Hickory Nut Gap*, a beautiful pass where the *Broad River* penetrates the Blue Ridge, lies 14 M. to the S.E. About 9 M. beyond the entrance to the Gap is the curious *Chimney Rock*. On the opposite side rises *Bald Mt.* (3860 ft.), celebrated in *Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's* 'Esmeralda'. There are two plain hotels not far from Chimney Rock. Other points of interest are the *Pools* and the *Hickory Nut Falls* (1300 ft.). — *Arden Park* (Hotel, \$2), 10 M. to the S.

**LONGER EXCURSIONS AND MOUNTAIN ASCENTS.** \**Mt. Mitchell* (6710 ft.), the highest peak in the United States to the E. of the Rocky Mts., rises in the Black Mts., 18 M. to the E. of Asheville. Its base may be reached by carriage along the Swannanoa or by railway to *Black Mt. Station* (p. 386). The ascent (arduous but not dangerous) takes 5 hrs. The \**View* is very extensive. The night is sometimes spent in a shallow cave near the top. The name is derived from *Prof. Etisha Mitchell*, who lost his life here in 1857, while determining the height of the mountain, and is buried at the summit. — \**Mt. Pisgah* (5765 ft.), one of the loftiest peaks near Asheville, lies 18 M. to the S.W. and commands a splendid view of the French Broad Valley. Accommodation for the night can be obtained in a farmhouse at the base, and the ascent may be made on horseback in 2 hrs. — *Craggy Mt.* (6090 ft.), an outlier of the Blue Ridge, 14 M. to the E., may be ascended on horseback in 2 hrs. (best in June, when hundreds of acres of rhododendrons, kalmias, azaleas, and heather may be seen in bloom). — \**Cæsar's Head* (3225 ft.), an outlier of the Blue Ridge, 45 M. to the S.W. of Asheville, may be reached either by carriage the whole way or by train to *Hendersonville* (p. 388) and carriage thence. On the S. side of the mountain

is a precipice 1500 ft. high, overlooking the low country of South Carolina and Georgia for 100 M. At the summit stands a good hotel (\$2). Various points of interest are passed on the way. — Other distant points which are visited from Asheville are *Hot Springs* (see below), *Highlands* (see below), *Roan Mt.* (p. 381), *Tryon*, and *Blowing Rock* (p. 386).

FROM ASHEVILLE TO SPARTANBURG, 70 M., railway in 3-3¼ hrs. — This line runs towards the S.E. 22 M. *Hendersonville* (2165 ft.; Globe, Southern, \$2) is the nearest railway-station to (25 M.) *Caesar's Head* (p. 387). Farther on the train reaches the picturesque "Saluda Gap, where it descends rapidly through a narrow gorge. Fine views (best to the left). Rhododendrons numerous. — 70 M. *Spartanburg*, see p. 375.

FROM ASHEVILLE TO MURPHY, 124 M., railway in 10-11 hrs. — The line runs towards the S.W. 23 M. *Waynesville* (2755 ft.; White Sulphur Springs Ho., \$2-3) lies amid the *Balsam Mts.*, five of which in the immediate vicinity are over 6000 ft. high. — 36 M. *Balsam* (Rail. Restaurant). — 49 M. *Dillsborough* is one of the nearest railway-stations to *Highlands* (3815 ft.; \**Davis Ho.*, \$2; *Highland Ho.*, \$1½), which lies 32 M. to the S. and is the highest village to the E. of the Rocky Mts. It is frequented for its bracing air and charming scenery. — 124 M. *Murphy*.

Beyond Asheville the MORRISTOWN TRAIN runs to the N. through the beautiful valley of the *French Broad River*. Picturesque scenery (views to the left). 153 M. *Alexander*.

179 M. **Hot Springs** (1325 ft.; \**Mountain Park Hotel*, \$2½-5), situated in a beautiful little valley, 1 M. in diameter, surrounded by mountains 3-4000 ft. high, has long been frequented for its hot springs and delightful climate (winter milder than at Asheville). The springs (temp. 84-104°) are efficacious in rheumatism, gout, sciatica, skin and blood affections, and nervous prostration. Pleasant walks may be taken among the hills, but the drives are limited to those up and down the river. *Round Top* (1840 ft.), to the N., across the river, is easily ascended in ½ hr. and commands a good view.

Beyond Hot Springs we cross the French Broad and follow its S. bank. At (184 M.) *Paint Rock* (1275 ft.) the river forces its way through a gap between the *Great Smoky Mts.* (left) and the *Bald Mts.* (right). We enter *Tennessee*.

At (228 M.) **Morristown** (*Virginia Ho.*, \$2) we join the line from *Washington* to *Chattanooga* (see R. 69 b).

## 71. From Richmond to Charleston.

### a. Via Weldon.

396 M. RAILWAY (*Atlantic Coast Line*) in 10-14 hrs. (fare \$ 13.15; sleeper \$ 3) This line forms part of the 'Atlantic Coast Line Route' from New York to Florida (see R. 76a; from New York to *Charleston* in 19¼-26 hrs.; fare \$ 21.20, sleeper \$ 4.50).

*Richmond*, see p. 366. The train crosses the *James* and runs towards the S. 8 M. *Drewry Bluff* (p. 370); 13 M. *Chester*. Near (23 M.) *Petersburg* we see remains of the fortifications of the Civil War (see p. 373). Near (76 M.) *Pleasant Hill* we enter *North Carolina*. At (84 M.) *Weldon* (70 ft.) we intersect the *Seaboard Air Line* from *Norfolk* (see p. 371). The train now traverses a flat region, clothed with endless pine-forests. 121 M. *Rocky Mount*, the