

The Beautiful Scenery of Lower Connecticut Valley.

How conspicuously apparent is the growing popularity of the lower Connecticut river valley from Hartford to Saybrook as a place to be visited by tourists and summer vacation seekers. And it is now but in its infant stage of development judging from its present trend of progress in this direction, therefore it would be far from improbable to predict that in the not far distant future this picturesque section of country will many times outgrow its present standing as a summer resort and as a point of visitation for the tourist who views places of interest the country over. It is true, says the Hartford Times, that this valley will not spring into national prominence at the mushroom rate as many of the celebrated parts of the country have, but rather it will be of the slower, although inevitably sure, method, and once attained it will live long.

The prettiest part of the valley, in the opinion of nearly all who are thoroughly familiar with it, is from Middletown south to Saybrook. In going down the river by boat, upon leaving Middletown the first point which attracts unusual notice from the admirer of natural scenery is the Narrows, and by many considered the prettiest point along the river, for here high hills on each side of the river, covered with a dense growth of trees mantled with luxuriant foliage at this time of year, are to be seen, and when casting their shadows over the placid waters below present a view that captivates its spectators. From this emphatic manifestation of beauty on down to Goodspeeds Landing or East Haddam there is one continuous line of charming scenery that calls for the undivided attention of one who would see it as a whole.

Just below East Haddam there is another stretch to be compared in grandeur to the Straits, for in this stretch there stands out in bold prominence on the east side of the river seven high hills following one another in succession and almost perfect symmetry to Hadlyme, the next place below East Haddam and they are appropriately called The Seven Sisters. And from here until the river enters Long Island Sound there are other numerous points directly upon the banks of the river and slightly adjacent, but not so far that they cannot be vividly seen from the river, that are eminently picturesque, among them being Selden's cove and Selden's neck; the gigantic hills towering high above the little community of Brockway; the lofty Joshua Rocks where, according to an old legend, King Joshua of a Connecticut Indian tribe used to sit looking out over the surrounding country and his people; Hamburg cove as it winds snake-like between hills from its mouth at the Connecticut to the landing at Hamburg a distance of about a mile; the thriving manufacturing villages on the opposite side of the river, covering a distance for several miles north and south and surrounded by rolling hills thereby obscuring the villages for the most part from the river, but making known their existence to the river tourist by the loud and shrill whistles of their factories [calling men to and dismissing them from their daily toil; the superb landscapes which lend so great a charm to the old and historic villages of Saybrook and Lyme—all of this beauty is enveloped in the lower Connecticut valley.

Within the past three or four years a large colony of artists from far and near gather each year at Lyme and vicinity that they may express on canvas the beauties of that immediate locality, principally, but also of the entire lower Connecticut river valley, and are doing much toward heralding its grandeur throughout the country.