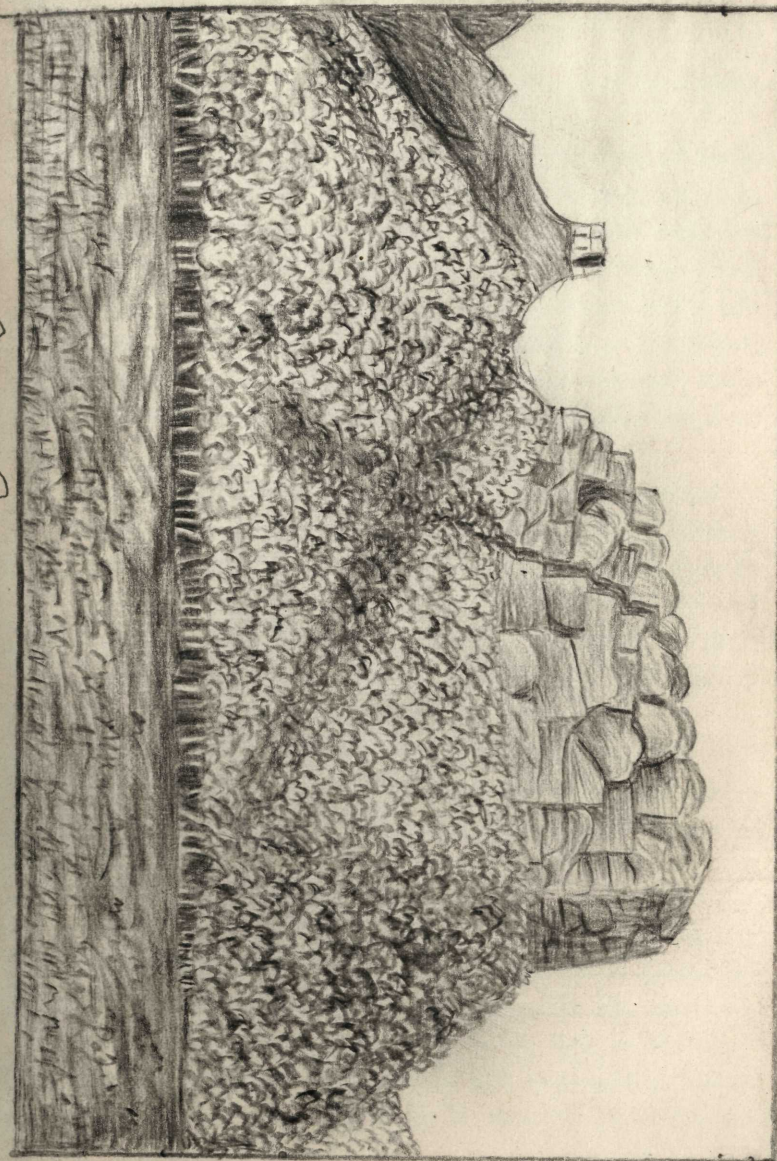


or twelve
rises about eleven hundred feet above the surrounding plain. Ascending its sloping sides, covered with trees, we came to the nearly perpendicular walls of granite which form its summit.

These, at the south end of the mountain, rise about two hundred feet, while they are much higher at the north,—probably not less than four hundred feet. These rocks render the ascent laborious and difficult, but once surmounted, the magnificent grandeur of the scene crowns all. Hundreds of square miles of rich and beautiful prairies, valleys, hills, and plains, are spread out as a map at our feet, in all their wildness and solitude. The less lofty peaks of the Wichitas were scattered about us here and there, to the east, west, and south,—being a perfect wilderness of rocky summits. The mountain ridges we had crossed in the morning, and which cost us hours of toil, could scarcely be distinguished from the plains, so low and insignificant did they appear.

The more elevated head of Mount Scott stood out in the east, at the distance of six miles, as a giant among dwarfs, while, taking the whole view, in all the ever-varying richness of scenery incident to the proximity of mountains and plains, hills and valleys, the effect is striking and sublime.

On our return to the Agency late in the evening, we learned that four of the women captured by Colonel McKenzie, having been released at the solicitation of Horseback, on account of his procuring the release from



Mount Sheridan and Secretary