As with other infants even this famous "Old Man" has had a brain development, and that of long standing. It is evident that at birth the quantity of his gray matter was such that he had a recreating forehead, for then the four and a half, by fifteen feet wide, weighing 20 tons, the northern end of which forms the most prominent part of his forehead, was back against the ledge. From this ledge it has gradually slipped away during the ages until now the northern end is two feet ten inches and the other end five feet five inches from where it was at birth. This slipping of the brain—not softening—caused the "Old Man" to "grow old heartily," for it caused a recreating forehead into one of Wedgstonian proportions.

All this had been well known to him and was again discovered that unless something was done in the near future to prevent it, he might pass away. And so he had a recreating profile, and the "Old Man of the Mountains" had neither nose nor forehead to spare. And as it came about that he needed an "operation," simply to prevent the ravages of time from destroying his sublime countenance. But the serious question was, "Who will operate?" "How shall it be done?" "How arrange for the operation?" and "Who will pay the bill?"

Prior to 1906, although it was known that the relic needed attention, nothing was done to bring this to pass. But in September, 1906, this mind was relieved by the Rev. Guy Roberts, then of Monroe, and now of Whitefield, N. H. Unlike those who had preceded him, he was not content to sit idly by and allow one of the most remarkable natural curiosities in America to go to pieces. He remembered that the immense egg-shaped boulder so long suspended in the Flume was turned out by a landslide from Mount Flume on June 19, 1889, and had never been seen since, although it had been there for ages; possibly, and "would not slip far center," on a noted mountain authority had declared.

Although there was no possible danger to the profile from a landslide, because there is no land on that part of Mount Cannon to slide, there was great danger from vandals had it from the effects of frost and ice. And so for the next ten years Mr. Roberts tried successfully to secure such action as would save "the profile of all profiles," as he believed it to be.

Colonel C. H. Greenleaf, President of The Flume and Flume Hotel Company, who has always been much interested in the relic, was interviewed by Mr. Roberts several times. Some thirty-eight years ago, knowing of the precarious position of the slipping stone, Mr. Greenleaf and two workmen made an examination of the head, and decided that nothing could be done owing to the immense size of the boulder. In September, 1936, the long-hoped-for opportunity came to Mr. Roberts. In that he guided Edward H. Godden, manager of the C. H. Hardwick granite quarries in Quincy, Mass., up Mount Cannon to examine the head, and together they worked out the following scheme for fastening the slipping forehead stone by the use of Lewis blocks and turn-buckles.

Lewis blocks are steel blocks, in this case 14 inches long, 4 inches wide at the outer end, 3 inches at the outer end, and 1 inch thick, and are cleved through an eye to large turn-buckles, which are turned up after the blocks are keyed in place in the rock, thus giving a pull which would hold a slipping stone in place. These holes, each 15 inches deep, were to be drilled into the back edge of the solid ledge, from which the stone had gradually slipped away; the blocks were to be inserted in these bolts and keyed in with large square steel keys, buckles, and Mr. Roberts made a plaster model of the profile for the making of the block of ledge, using the Godden turn-buckles in fastening the slipping stone. This he showed to Colonel Greenleaf, and then the model and certain photographs taken by Mr. Roberts were shown to Governor Spaulding and his Counsel at Concord, N. H., in August, the outcome being a decision to proceed at once with the necessary "operation" at Flume expense. Colonel Greenleaf was put in charge of the work.

The turn-buckles were made from the above model and to fit measurements taken by Mr. Roberts and Mr. Godden by O. V. Hooker & Co. of St. Johnsbury, Vt., under the supervision of their Superintendent, William Astle. Arrangements were made with Mr. Godden to go to The Flume and proceed with the work as "surgical operation," and his task was completed and the work was done, but not a day's work, but one's life's work, could be that of the Old Man of the Mountains. N. H.

Mr. Godden is a man nearly 50 years old, small, wavy, full of nerve, absolutely fearless, and strictly temperamental, and is the real estate agent of many a "Old Man of the Mountains," who is not afraid to show his head and back blemishes. During the "operation" he rose at 5 a.m., after a big breakfast, hiked the trail up Mount Cannon, a steep and rugged climb of some 1,900
feet, covering a distance of one and three-quarter miles. It took him about forty-five minutes. From the top of the mountain he would go down some 800 feet to the "top of the head," working there until about 4 in the afternoon, when he would again descend the mountain for supper and lodging at The Profile House. It is a good day's work for a rugged man merely to make the trip to the head and return, as the trail is long, rough, and steep. One woman is known to have made the trip, a Miss Nellie I. Emery of Littleton, N. H., and a strenuous time she had.

Mr. Geddes supplemented his "little morning trip" for eight successive days with drilling holes, inserting the blocks, and fastening the turn-buckles in place. Although no staging of any kind was required, much of the work had to be done in dangerous positions, where a slight misstep would mean a fall of several hundred feet. Besides, great care had to be taken in cutting the rock, one end of which rests on a small shelving portion of the ledge, while the other is suspended in the air merely by the over-balancing weight of The Profile-forming end. Not more than 40 per cent. of the under surface of this stone rests on the ledge, while the remaining 60 per cent. projects into space, where it has been slowly crowded out during the ages by snow and ice heaving. In fact, so nearly over-balanced is this great portion of the forehead that it is estimated that one or two men with bars could easily dislodge the 30-ton mass, to the utter ruin of The Profile. In fact, the rock often trembled during the operation. The wonder is that vandals have not tried to pry off the stone, but fortunately there is no trail from the top of Mount Cannon down to the head, and, very few people, not excepting mountain enthusiasts, make the descent.

As to the exact formation of The Profile, the common guidebook description is the one generally supposed to be correct. This says that "The Profile is formed by three separate and disconnected ledges of granite covering a lateral distance of 100 feet. Of these one forms the chin, another the nose and upper lip, and a third the forehead. In height The Profile is 90 feet from the bottom of the chin to the top of the forehead." This description was published by the late Rev. Thomas Starr King in his book, "The White Hills." Exactly where he got his information is not known, but measurements are wrong. As a matter of fact The Profile is 40 feet 6 inches high from top of forehead to bottom of chin, according to measurements made by Mr. Geddes, who went down over the face on a rope for this very purpose. It is composed of five layers of granite ledge, one exactly above the other. The lateral distance is but 25 feet. Of the five layers one forms the chin, another the upper lip, a third the nose, while two layers make up the forehead, one of them being the rock that has been fastened back. It was also often stated that the nose, chin, and other parts of the head had been chained, bolted, or cemented in place, but this was untrue until Mr. Geddes completed his work. It is hoped that a bronze tablet may be placed on the fastened rock, to record how it was secured and to guard against the supposition of fraud in generations to come.

One of the many difficulties to be overcome by Mr. Geddes was that of getting the turn-buckles and other material up to the head. The only feasible way was to have them carried up by men. From thirty to forty pounds is a good load for such a trip, and even at high pay it was difficult to get men to make one trip a day. Drills, hammers, turn-buckles, Lewis blocks, ropes, brimstone, paint, water, and food were packed up, and a third of the way down the other side of the mountain to The Profile location, Mr. Geddes himself carried not a little of this impedimenta in his morning trips.

The route from the top of the mountain down to the head is especially difficult. It is steep and rough, and often a dense cloud obscures all of the landmarks. At times during the work the cloud mist was so dense on the head that one man could not see another twenty feet distant, while the rush of wind sometimes compelled the men to use safety ropes. The combination of cloud mist, wind, cold, snow, ice, slippery surfaces, and dangerous position made the operation exceedingly difficult, and required much nerve and skill on the part of Mr. Geddes.