THE RESOURCES OF THE ROCKY
MOUNTAINS: BEING A BRIEF DESCRIPTION
OF THE MINERAL, GRAZING, AGRICULTURAL
AND TIMBER RESOURCES OF COLORADO,
UTAH, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, WYOMING,
IDAHO, MONTANA AND DAKOTA

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The resources of the Rocky Mountains: being a brief description of the mineral, grazing, agricultural and timber resources of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and Dakota by E. J. Farmer

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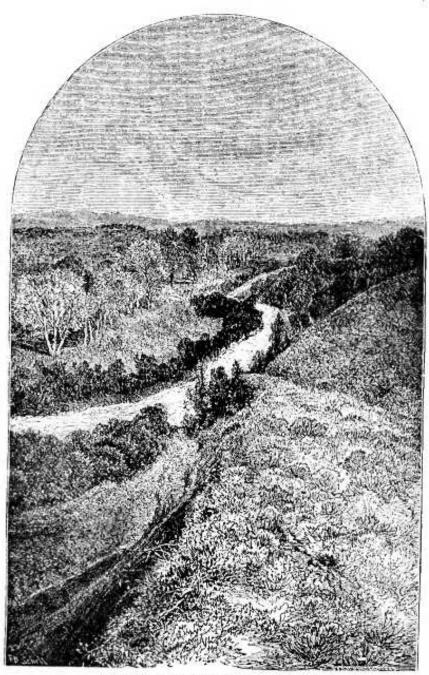
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E. J. FARMER

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View in Middle Park, Colorado.

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QF.

COLORADO, UTAH, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, WYOMING, IDAHO, MONTANA, AND DAKOTA.

BY

E. J. FARMER,

AUTHOR OF STATISTICS IN RELATION TO GOLD AND SILVER.

"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

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INTRODUCTION.

T was on the 19th day of January, 1848, that James W-Marshall, at Coloma, made the first discovery of gold in California. Numerous discoveries then followed in quick succession, until the cry of gold! gold! gold! rang all along the shores of the Pacific; arose like the clangor of bells, and was borne upon the winds over the Coast Range; thence over the summits of the Sierras, and the still higher crests of the Rockies; it came sweeping down the long incline plains into the valley of the Mississippi; thence across the broad prairies to the borders of the lakes; turning men's faces everywhere towards the setting sun: still onward through the woodlands of Ohio and Pennsylvania; gliding over the peaks of the Alleghanies, and the Blue Ridge, and descending to the shores of the Atlantic, it was wafted to the continent of Europe.

Wherever the cry was heard, men began to "see visions and to dream dreams;" and from that moment the mighty march of empire began. From every port sailed ships, freighted with daring and adventureous men, destined for the land of gold. From the topmost masts of these ships, on long streamers, floated upon the breeze the magic word "California"; and they departed, amid cheers from unnumbered thousands, to sweep through tempestuous seas, around Cape Horn, for the Golden Gate. In the meantime, trains of white tented wagons were fast gathering upon the banks of the Mississippi, for their long and weary march to the new El Dorado of the world. The story of the 49'ers, whose descendents are now the nabobs of the Pacific coast, is one full of a romance such as can never again be repeated upon the American continent.

In 1852, a faint cry of gold was heard from Gold Creek, in Montana; only to be increased to thunder tones by discoveries of the precious metal at Pike's Peak, in Colorado; when, as from California, the thrice echoed sound of gold! gold! was again heard upon the shores of the Atlantic, and the broad expanse of the continent once more resounded with the tramp of marching thousands. From that hour, onward, the domain of civilization was rapidly extended, until, in 1869, on the 10th day of May, the iron arms of the Union and Central Pacific railways clasp hands at the snammit of the Rockies, whilst a thrill of electric joy passed over the broad expanse of the continent from ocean to ocean.

Under the magic influence of gold, what mighty changes have been produced in thirty-five years! What a stream of this metal has been flowing from California, Montana, Nevada, and Colorado, into the world, enriching it in all that goes to bring man to his highest and best estate. Under this magic word, what thousands of courageous men have scaled every mountain side, and marched through every valley of the vast ranges of the American Cordilleras! They have tapped the mighty veins of the mountains, and, to-day, the cry that rings from ocean to ocean, is, silver! silver! It began in Nevada, and is now echoed from Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and Dakota. A stream of silver has been opened amid the Rockies, that will, in time, make the American Nation the richest on the globe.

The brief sketches, given in the following pages, of the Resources of the Rocky Mountains, are intended, only as a bird's eye view of this land of wealth. To reach it, it is no longer necessary to sail the seas around Cape Horn, or to travel by tedious caravan across the plains; for a dozen lines of railway lead to this land of silver and of gold.

The slow tented wagons have given place to the luxurious palace cars, and a trip across the plains is now one to be re-

membered with delight. From Chicago, in the brief space of six hours, you are at the "Father of Waters," the mighty Mississippi, while in twelve more you are upon the banks of the great Missouri.

Then for thirty hours you traverse the plains of the Great West in a comfortable palace car, and rise, as by a steady incline, to an altitude of 5,600 feet above the sea, when you come to the "Queen City of the Plains"—Denver.

Thus far you have crossed broad prairies, which extend to the horizon on every side, in livid green. have hurried on through beautiful towns and villages, set here and there upon this paradise of plenty. plowman has slacked his hand by the waving fields of grain. The herds of fatted cattle have wandered in greedy indolence, unconscious of their fate. You have crossed wide and gently flowing rivers, freighted with their fleets of commerce. You have traversed by day and by night those immense plains which seem to have no ending, but extend as though they went onward to the setting sun. Their now silent and deserted surfaces you have in imagination peopled with the extinct and forgotten tribes of the red men. You have listened to the resounding tramp of millions of buffalo as they fled, pursued by their inveterate foes. You have seen the first white tented wagons making their tedious way to the land of gold. You have witnessed bands of crawling savages surround the caravans of the white man, and with demoniac yells spring upon their sleeping victims and end their golden dreams in You have seen the gathering multitude dreadful death. of pale faces pressing hard upon the fast retreating Indians and buffalo. You have seen the spirit of intelligence spread her white wings, while from her nimble fingers fell the thread of the electric telegraph—the crowning triumph of all the ages. You have recalled your thoughts, and found yourself spinning across these mighty plains in a chariot harnessed to a steed of fire. You have turned and looked to see what was coming after, and you have seen towns and cities