

**ACROSS THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS,
FROM NEW YORK TO
CALIFORNIA: WITH A VISIT TO THE
CELEBRATED MORMON COLONY
AT THE GREAT SALT LAKE**

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Across the Rocky mountains, from New York to California: with a visit to the celebrated Mormon colony at the Great Salt Lake by William Kelly

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WILLIAM KELLY

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THE BOOKCASE.

I.

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BY WILLIAM KELLY, ESQ.

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1852.





PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

It was a most gratifying recompense for the toils and sufferings of my arduous journey, to learn, on its first appearance in print, that the public vouchsafed an anxious interest in my wild and lonely wanderings; and it now affords a consolatory balm to the aching consequences which that journey has entailed on me, to find that the scenes and adventures I attempted to portray, still retain some little charm, faded though it be, sufficient to warrant me in telling my story over again; or, in the language of the stage, of modestly responding to the encore which has agreeably penetrated to my quiet retreat.

I trust I may be excused while putting forth this new edition of my "Excursion," if I take pride and credit for the truth and accuracy of the anticipated speculations in which I ventured to indulge in my former publication, respecting the settlement of California, its capabilities for agriculture, its trade and commerce, and more particularly its vast mineral wealth.

I originally stated my conviction that the gold found in the placer diggings were the mere crumbs of volcanism, and that the great deposits of the precious metals were to be found deep in the bowels of the earth, and in the stupendous quartz stratifications, but only to be approached by the union of science and capital; and now, after a lapse

of two years since my visit to the mines, my predictions are in course of being fully verified. The amount of the golden harvest has been more than quadrupled, chiefly through the agency of wealth and science, as applied to the crushing of quartz and the sinking of deep shafts in the auriferous districts. Several English companies have been organized for this purpose; and I would say to them, let them be of good cheer: their mining investments will fructify a hundred-fold, if their operations are conducted with skill, energy, and honesty.

The overland journey to California, though still an arduous one, is now divested of many of the dangers and difficulties I encountered. Replenishing depots are now established at convenient points in the wilderness; the faint Indian trail has become a beaten thoroughfare; the morasses no longer threaten to engulf the traveller; the rapid rivers are ferried over; the thicket is pierced; the forests felled; the rugged pass smoothed over; there's a well in the desert; and the terror of retribution keeps the savage Indian in awe: nevertheless, our indefatigable tourists had better continue to confine their *excursions* to the "beautiful Rhine," and the familiar alpine scenery of Switzerland, until the completion of the great central railway, and content themselves, in the interim, with a perusal of these pages, which are now submitted, in a cheap and amended form, by

THE AUTHOR.

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