

**SKETCHES OF BUTTE
(FROM VIGILANTE
DAYS TO PROHIBITION)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649206698

Sketches of Butte (from Vigilante days to prohibition) by George Wesley Davis

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GEORGE WESLEY DAVIS

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DAYS TO PROHIBITION)**

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ANACONDA HILL
"The Richest Hill"

Sketches of Butte

(From Vigilante Days to Prohibition)

BY

GEORGE WESLEY DAVIS

AUTHOR OF

"Dancing Girls of Cairo," "On the Danube and the Rhine"



THE CORNHILL COMPANY
BOSTON

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THE CORNHILL COMPANY
NEW YORK

FOREWORD

In writing these sketches, I have avoided, as much as possible, the over-written mines, courts and politics.

I shall give a pen picture of a wonderful Western camp, the good and bad of an unusual people, the joys and horrors of the largest mining camp in the world, a city of many contrasts.

The Butte of the early days is passing, and like many of what were once the frontier towns and camps of our great Western country, the picturesqueness of its life is passing with it, so that, even today, it seems necessary to make a narrative of personal experience or observation, as most old-timers of the "diggings" are averse to talking of early days, except in a general way. Perhaps it is because of a fear of throwing light on shadows of former days,—a time when life was reckless. One must have lived in those days to picture it as it was from the beginning of the placer diggings down to the

present day. It is my wish to be fair with all classes and give conditions as they have existed from year to year. I trust that this fact alone will justify my taking the reader from places of joy to sections where tragedy stalks about the streets.

Many of the great mining camps today are ghost towns—Bannack, Cripple Creek, Tonapah and Goldfields are scarcely more than memories of their tempestuous past, and their history has largely died with them. Butte alone remains individual, distinct, apart, greater today than ever before, a city now, although throughout the world referred to as a camp, the most wonderful the world has ever known, half ashamed of its past, yet like unto no other of our important cities.

GEORGE WESLEY DAVIS.

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