

and left to the Celestial to glean the remainder. This was a paradise for the Chinamen for a while. The climate was milder than in other localities near by, while the soil produced vegetables in abundance, as well as gold. This paradise was, however, rudely invaded. The devil, in the form of the Salmon Eater Indians, entered and seduced the "first parents," not with pippin apples, but with rifles and scalping knives.

It was an unusually hard winter, this winter of '68-9, and the Indians down on the Salmon were starving. Both fish and game were scarce. A portion of the tribe paid a visit to Oro Grande, the name given the town, and asked for provisions (*muck-amuck*), which the Heathen Chinese indignantly refused. The day was bitterly cold, and great flakes of snow fell thick, and the Indians, to shelter themselves, built their camp fires in the streets, close under the eaves of the houses. John resented this, and extinguished the fires by pouring on water. This was, in turn, too much for the native and original owners of the soil. They opened fire upon the Chinamen, killed some dozen or more, confiscated all the provisions, and burned the town. Whether the Indian essayed to make use of chop-sticks, is not known, but that they had a royal feast, history affirms; and thus passed away the glory of Oro Grande. It is still worked by a few adventuresome Chinese, but the most of them prefer the haunts of white men.

At this time the excitement in quartz began to be felt in this vicinity. Mining had all been rocker and sluice; now it was pick and drill, powder and blast. As in the history of Washoe, placer mining was the advance guard. A party of prospectors, among whom were W. A. Norton and Hon. John S. Rohrer, discovered and located the Charles Dickens quartz ledge. The location overlooks Yankee Fork and Jordan creek. The ledge was, and still is, of fabulous richness, and by becoming the property of a London syndicate, has obtained a world-wide reputation. The highest grade of ore sampled \$3,700.00 per ton, and \$1,000.00 a day was, at the time of its discovery, crushed in a hand mortar. Two men crushed \$12,000.00 the first month with that very simple mill. The new company has improved the buildings, built dwellings, an ore house, and steam hoisting works are planted and a vigorous prosecution of mining will be at once commenced.

The mine is now under the general management of N. Tremock, of Salt Lake City, and local superintendency of William McQueen.

About four miles to the west of the Dickens, and going up, seemingly at an angle of forty-five degrees, we find the Montana. The Dickens on the east, the Montana on the west, while "Jordan rolls between."

Estes mountain, on which the Montana is located, is nine thousand five hundred feet above sea level. Here let it be stated that the district is covered by a dense growth of large and valuable timber, and water power is abundant. The Montana has produced over \$500,000.00 in gold and silver bullion. The last dividend yielded its owners \$60,000.00. Within a radius of eight miles, there have been discovered and worked thirteen paying mines. There is no knowledge of what the placer mines of Jordan gulch have yielded, but it is simply enormous, and they are still being worked.

These placers have been worked for years, by Mr. J. G. Morrison. Last summer he associated with himself Mr. H. A. Peerson, a gentleman of large fortune, who mines, as Santa Ana said the Yankees fought, for the fun of it. They have constructed a mill on Jordan creek, with a capacity for fifteen stamps. They have thus far operated only five stamps, but in forty days run have paid for the mill, a Frue vanner and saw mill. The mill is run by water, and the cold snap of last week compelled them to suspend, with a hundred tons of first-class ore in the ore house and an unlimited quantity in sight, on which a force of men will work all winter.

The next year after the Dickens, two miles northeast, the Custer group of mines was located. This group was sold, or leased, to a California company, in which Haggin and Tevis were the leading owners. A thirty-stamp mill was built, which has never ceased the dropping of its eight hundred pound stamps, and has added to the gold and silver bullion of the world over \$5,000,000.00.

Two mills of thirty stamps each will be erected next season—one for Estes mountain and the other for the Dickens—which will make one hundred and five stamps within a circle three miles in diameter. Notwithstanding the great impetus which is given to business, there are found here no Elysian fields. One comes here neither for his health nor for pleasure. There will be in these mountains hundreds of hardy miners, reaping the reward of their labor, but depending, for food, raiment, and the luxuries of life, upon the valleys below and the fertile lands of adjoining states and territories. Already the denizens of the hills call upon Oregon for the wheat from its fields, cloth from its factories, and fruit from its orchards. Oregon's productions are in every store; the City of Portland is represented on every shelf. The mineral regions of Idaho are the natural markets for web-foot products. We can not raise those products here. Where gold and silver lie beneath the soil, a scanty growth of fruit and flowers is found on the surface. The capabilities of a mining district are limited to the production of means to purchase the