

was not in the slightest degree interested in the ownership of the mine, and the locality at that time being to my mind unhealthy, I did not interfere. I was not even a spectator of the fight as I sat down beside a large pile of stones, and if any of my readers are more particularly anxious about my exact situation, I am willing to certify under oath that to the best of my knowledge and belief the thickest part of the pile of stones above referred to was between the fight and myself.

The population of Pioche, in that day, represented about every state in the union and nearly every nation on the face of the earth. Thirty saloons were in full blast and nearly as many licensed gambling games. I have forgotten the amount paid for liquor license, but it was \$30.00 per quarter for a faro license. Faro was the favorite game of chance and the chances were and are very much against the regular player making any money at it. The only sure way of getting the best of a gambling game is to leave it entirely alone. If the young fools who think they can gamble would simply quit it, the regular gamblers would eventually have to go to work, an operation of which they have the most abject horror.

There was no mock modesty about people being seen drinking at the bar in that day, no green blinds and folding doors were required in the front of the saloon. You could see from the street all that was going on inside. You could just walk up to the bar, name your favorite beverage and the particular kind of sour that you wanted in it and you got it. You paid your bill (two bits or 25c) gave way to the next party and retired yourself to recover from the effects of the dose. The names of some of the drinks had to my ears a peculiarly western flavor: Jersey Lightning, Valley Tan, Terantula Juice, Sheepherder's delight, etc. I fancy the effect of these various concoctions is about the same. An old miner once told me that any of them would bring on a "drunk" and that was what he was after.

In walking down the streets of Pioche one day a scene was presented to me that I doubt could be dupli-