

### THE MINE THAT FAILED.

There was a man Jim Greene by name,  
He struck a ledge and staked a claim,  
Then came to town with valet and fuss,  
And corralled a scientific cuss.

"Professor, I should like to sport  
An assay, and a swell report;  
I want you to crack up my rock,  
And take your dividend in stock."

The swell report was quickly done,  
The ledge it was a fissure one,  
Quite well defined, and the ore it run  
At the rate of a thousand dollars a ton.

Jim mounted all his handsome things—  
Two chandelier diamond rings—  
And a nugget breastpin on his shirt,  
Shed golden lustre o'er the dirt.

To Francis Shaver street he went,  
And there he found a nice old gent;  
So Jim laid out to do his best,  
And talked him till he couldn't rest.

"You ain't no thought how great," said he,  
"Our mineral resources be;  
Jest one per cent. of what we'll get  
Will pay this mighty country's mighty debt."

"There ain't a better cow to milk  
Than a first-class mine (that ain't no bilk)  
Here gold's in heaps"—and here he cuss'd  
"If that ain't level, then bust my crust."

In thirty days the thing was done,  
And then Jim figured what he' won;  
He felt as cheap as a nickel clock—  
Ten whisky straights, and the rest—in stock.

There was a board of rich trustees  
(A stock donation to each of these),  
And they sold the shares, on terms to please,  
To twenty widows and ten D. D's.

When Jim Greene's turn to sell came round  
There was nary buyer to be found,  
And the treasurer kindly did advise  
To hold his stock till it should rise.

As time elapsed they failed to get  
A process for their sulphuret,  
And ere they solved that fatal doubt  
The blasted ledge had petered out.

The trustees all did abdicate,  
The clergy preached man's lost estate;  
The treasurer took a foreign tour;  
The widows—heaven help the poor!

Jim Greene upon some marble white  
His name, and this, "Dead broke," did write;  
Then lay down in an onion bed,  
And pulled the tombstone over his head.

—Melchisedek B. Diggs.

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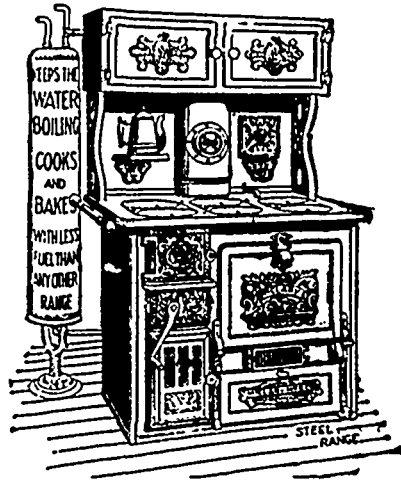
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