

attempt to hold a mine, or shares in one, which did not, in some undefined way, connect with it; and if the matter was doubted, any amount of proof was forthcoming in the shape of oaths and undefinable mining slang. It was as well to believe as to go to look for proof. I soon found that a good pedigree was as necessary for a mine as a horse that was being trained for the turf, with a view to his sale. We may mention such names as the Gould and Curry, Ophir, Chollar, Potosi and Savage, to show that the reputation of this mining region was almost world wide. These, and many more which are not mentioned, were at one time known under the general cognomen of the Washoe mines.

The situation of Virginia, if not agreeable, is at least romantic. It may be said with truth, to nestle amongst the mountains. The elevation is something like ten thousand feet above the sea level, and though warm in the day time, is decidedly cool each and every night in the year. The wind, whirling and circling amongst the mountain peaks, is sometimes very violent, and partakes of the character of the whirlwind frequently, and the absence of rain makes the dust often beyond endurance. The character of the water is also decidedly bad, owing to the admixture of divers minerals. The ground on which it is built slopes at an angle of sixteen or eighteen degrees, and the chief business streets run across the slope. The sidewalk of one street is on a level with the third story of the houses of the street below. The slope on which it is built ends a half a mile below in a steep and rocky canyon, which, lined by grim and precipitous mountains on both sides, finally ends at Carson Valley. To the north, in our immediate vicinity, we have Cedar Hill—lofty and steep, but not very rugged. The level ground to the south ends at Gold canyon, a mile distant, famous for its rich lode. Down this canyon three miles is the “Devil’s Gate,” where the mountain seems to have been separated by some tremendous force, leaving a perpendicular wall of more than a hundred feet on both sides of a passage about twelve feet in width. Truly, a wonderful gate. To the west we have as our immediate neighbour Mount Davidson, whose summit is three to four thousand feet above the city. Some sarcastic individual has said that the Virginians are very much given to visiting this elevation, as it is the point nearest heaven which they ever hope to attain. After a residence of four years here, and pronouncing calmly and dispassionately on the case, I