

each brought their national customs and language, and the jargon formed by a combination of these is something wonderful. The number of slang phrases in use, and these used without application or relevancy, makes the means of communication intricate and bewildering.

Let us now turn our attention to the cause of the gathering of this motley crew in this far-off land. The rugged, barren, and lava-strewn mountains and spurs which jut out and force themselves into such strange shapes and places, are the depositories of untold wealth. Nearly all the known minerals are to be found within their limits; but the principal attraction is the precious metals. This is essentially the land of silver, as it is found over nearly the entire State in a profusion unknown in Mexico or Peru. Less or more gold is also found in combination, and it is also procured pure and in large quantities in some lodes. These metals are only found in this State associated with quartz rock, and machinery in every case is used in its extraction. A salt mine of unknown extent has lately been found near the sink of the Carson, and is a fortune to the owners, as it is pure. Iron in solid mountains is to be found near the Humboldt River, and a mine of soap, or something which answers the same purpose, has been found north of the Carson River, and not far from Virginia City. Warm and boiling springs are to be found at intervals over the entire State, and deposits of lava and pumice stone show the unmistakable action of fire at no very remote date. When we come to add that this is the home of the scorpion, the rattlesnake, and the tarantula,—the latter like a huge spider, and the most deadly of American reptiles,—we think we have said enough about this delectable region, and so will conclude our brief sketch of the State of Nevada.

We will now suppose ourselves to be in Virginia City—the mining and commercial capital of Nevada; and that our object is to visit the Geysers of this State, known as Steamboat Springs, which we are informed lie some ten miles north of the city. A stage-coach starts every morning especially for the accommodation of such as are of an enquiring turn of mind, or are curious in the matter of developed or latent heat. We cannot, however, leave this unique city without a glance at its history and situation. The site takes in the Comstock lode, the prolific parent of many mines, and the reputed father of many more. No man would