

Preface

This book records the observations made by a traveler who happened to be a mining engineer; it is supposed to belong to the type of *voyages metallurgiques*, such as were published in days before the globe had been over-run by tourists, and its distant corners rendered commonplace by the exaggerations of the daily press. To the members of my profession the comment concerning the industrial conditions, geological structure, mining methods, and metallurgical practice of southwestern Colorado and a progressive part of Mexico will have the interest that comes from observations which reflect a point of view somewhat similar to their own, while to the layman the not too severely technical descriptions, aided by beautiful photographs, will afford information of a kind rarely obtainable except in periodicals devoted to technology. It is hoped that this record of conditions in two representative mining regions may have a historical value in the days to come. Moreover, I have thought it well to publish this volume as an expression of thanks to those who were kind enough to give me many valuable data and to make my travels pleasant by their courtesy and hospitality. I am indebted to many friends for the photographs, for only a few of them are my own. From the United States Geological Survey were obtained half a dozen of the best views of the San Juan; other acknowledgments appear in the text.

T. A. RICKARD.

San Francisco, September 15, 1907.