

cupied a position upon the medical faculty of an eastern University, and though my heart was in my work, I was led to put aside my profession and go out into the world. The woman whose face you have seen in that picture, was to have been my wife. My salary was not sufficient to make it possible for me to provide anything but a humble home, so I determined to steal away out into the West from where came stories of men becoming fabulously rich in a short time.

"Having sent in my resignation, I wrote a short letter to Marguerite in which I told her of my intentions, and said that when fortune favored me, I would return; but that she would not hear from me again until I had succeeded in making a fortune sufficient to provide a handsome income for our lives. I swore that my love for her would never lessen, and asked that my plans should be kept strictly secret, and that no one should know of my whereabouts.

"Soon I was carried to Chicago, then a much smaller place than now. From there, a few short hours carried me into the sparsely populated Western States, and I was glad when I left behind me civilization with all its misery and riches. I was bound for Denver, for the State of Colorado had become famous for its rich gold and silver mines. Many of my companions on the train were bound on an errand similar to my own, and no doubt many of them had a secret lurking in their breasts. I did not remain long in Denver to view the beauties of the City, though an artist's eye might well have been gratified. In the distance lay the mountains, rising peak upon peak, holding

in their bowels riches of unknown extent. My one and only thought was to possess some of these, and to then return to be forever happy.

"I procured a miner's outfit and started down along the foot-hills toward Cripple Creek. All along the trail, I met miners digging into the sides of the mountains. Some told me stories which were enough to discourage any man who had not sacrificed as much as I in the race for gold and happiness. Others told me stories of how in a few weeks, they had made thousands of dollars, though luck had not favored them until after years of trials and hardships.

"It was a long and tedious journey, and many times I thought of throwing in my lot with some of those by the way; but then again, I determined to push on to that district which, more than any other, had been reported as yielding gold in large quantities.

"Three days' journey brought me to the little settlement known as Colorado Springs, nestling in a valley beneath the shadow of Pike's Peak. Here I remained for several months making excursions up through the canyons which divided the mountains. I worked as a laborer, hoping to gain experience and become better acquainted with the rich districts. Three times I invested my meagre earnings and some of my capital in claims, which, though at first promising, soon ran out and had to be abandoned. My heart was sore, and many nights as I lay awake in my little hut, my spirit nearly broke, but my thoughts would then fly eastward over the vast expanse of plain, and I,