

In the Shadow of the Rockies.

"Go West Young Man."

That this advice, given by Horace Greely, has been taken by many Easterners, is self-evident to anyone who of late has visited Colorado after an absence of twenty-five or thirty years. In fact, were it not for the grand, unchangeable, natural monuments, it is very doubtful if the traveller in renewing his acquaintance with these parts, would recall to mind anything like a true picture of this Western State as she appeared a quarter of a century ago. Vast cities have sprung up where formerly existed lonely cabins; railroads have replaced the dusty trails; and vast areas of arid desert land have been transformed into a veritable garden of flowers and fruit. Probably nowhere on the continent of America have we such tangible evidence of the mighty power of human intelligence in grappling with a great problem and in harnessing and bringing under control the wasted forces of nature, converting them into sources from which spring wealth, comfort and pleasure.

For the first time in the history of the America Association for the Advancement of Science the annual meeting was held during the summer of 1901 in a city west of the Mississippi. The members, recognizing the fact that much valuable scientific work was being done in the universities and colleges of the "Far West," decided that it was only proper that at least an occasional meeting should be held in one of the cities of this country. The City of Denver, in the State of Colorado, was chosen for the first western

meeting, and the writer was so impressed with what he saw in this, the "Queen City of the Plains," and in other parts of the State visited during his brief sojourn, that a few impressions and statistics are here recorded.

The State of Colorado lies west of Kansas and Nebraska, east of Utah and south of Wyoming. As to size, perhaps the most easily comprehended form of measurement is to say that Colorado is larger than New England plus Ohio; or that you could easily place within its borders England, Scotland and Wales. Its population now exceeds half a million.

The mountains proper, including foothills, occupy two-thirds of the total area, and are the dominating characteristics. To the untrained eye they might appear as a mere jumble of terraces and chasms, peaks and valleys; rocks everywhere, strata on strata piled in a gigantic uplift miles high,—as if some titanic force had tired of play and gone away suddenly, leaving his "house blocks" scattered about. It is true that the mountains of Colorado lack points of beauty to be seen in those of our own province of British Columbia. Snow, without which mountain scenery is not complete, is found only on the highest peaks. Nevertheless these ranges possess a peculiar beauty, and, as the train carries you swiftly westward their dim outlines are at first faintly discerned and shortly the great blue mass takes definite form and you stand in the shadow of the Rockies,

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