

## OLD LINCOLN DISTRICT.

MINERSVILLE, May 4.—This is the oldest town in this part of Utah, and with the exception of Parowan and Cedar is the oldest in the southern part of the State. It is entitled to a distinction which it enjoys to a very limited degree if at all in being the pioneer in the mining industry in this section of the globe, meaning the vast expanse of country lying between the Missouri and the Sacramento rivers. As far back as 1858 some of the metallic resources of the place were observed and located in the year following, the chief characteristics of that time being lead which subsequently was discovered to be exceedingly hard and gradually getting harder, the cause being the presence and increasing percentage of silver in the ore. There was also, as has been disclosed in later years, some little gold, but the pioneers were not skilled metallurgists, and if they had been were not in possession of the appliances and chemicals by which separation could have been made. It is doubtless the case that many of the hand-made bullets of that day were more valuable than any others ever used by man in his civilized state, and when one of them penetrated an Indian or a wolf—both of which abounded in those days—neither realized the luxuriousness of the means by which he was wafted hence; on the contrary they kept out of range as carefully as though the messenger of dissolution were nothing more than a plebeian lead. Of course the precious metals, like genuine merit in all the circumstances of life, could not be kept in cultivation long and the animate savagery was kept in subjection and decline by means of pellets from which the more desirable elements had been carefully extracted.

The first mine to be opened here, in what is now Lincoln mining district, was called the Rollins, in honor of one of the discoverers, ex-Bishop Henry Rollins. This reminds me that he is now in a precarious condition, being extremely ill, with his advanced age—80—telling against him. As it supplied all needs in its line for the time being, the industry remained where it began for several years. The next we heard of it was in 1870, when E. W. Thompson of Beaver discovered and located the Forest Queen, this being followed in rapid succession by other locations and the district was formally organized on Jan. 16, 1871, a less formal organization under the name of the Pioneer having previously taken place. The Rollins changed hands and name, becoming, the Lincoln, and was a nucleus of a camp which grew until it assumed considerable proportions, containing at one time no less than 150 houses, or more than Minersville itself and being some three miles distant northeasterly. I have already told you of the striking of a spring of living water at a low place in the workings, and like a sinking ship, all energies were directed toward rescuing the property from the unwelcome element. These were only partially successful for obvious reasons, although many thousands of dollars were spent in the unequal contest. The work has been

practically suspended of late years, but it is quite probable that when the legal entanglements which now involve the property and which in one form or another seem inseparable from great mining operations, are settled, it will be resumed on a large scale. The more recent developments of science and greater familiarity with the difficulties to be confronted will doubtless make it practicable to exploit and deplete this great vein of mineral wealth as far as the cunning and endurance of man will enable him to follow it.

The demonetization of silver followed hard upon the shutting down of active work in the "Lincoln" and a general feeling of discouragement pervaded the camp. One after another followed suit until the place was practically abandoned, and only assessment work with an occasional experimental or contract job have been the rule since. This is so because it is so, and that is about the only reason that can be found. The ores of the district are in places so rich, accessible and abundant that shipments in the earlier days brought back well nigh a ceaseless flow of money, and so far from these being exhaustive or even extensively drawn upon, they are only at the threshold of their capacity. There are but few shafts or tunnels in more than 100 feet, and as most, if not all the principal mines are true fissures, it can readily be seen that it is the beginning rather than the ending of Lincoln district's career that confronts us. I write thus extensively upon this subject because none of the papers has so far given it the attention which its importance and promises entitle it to, and for the further reason that I have made a personal inspection of the district and can say without the fear of successful contradiction that greater ore bodies are not to be found within the borders of this truly wealthy and growing State. Other visitors have gone over the ground and made similar observations, but failed to place the same where they would do the most good.

To specify as to even a part of the developed properties of the district would at this time encroach too much on your space; it may receive attention later on, and if so you may depend upon it that the subject will justify the expenditure. Lincoln is as certain to forge to the front again and remain there as that nothing was made in vain. In a place where there is little but mineral beneath the upper crust of the soil, and mineral whose average value is more than that of many of the districts which are now doing a prosperous business, there can be no other conclusion arrived at. The railroad is only fifteen miles away, with a reasonable assurance that ere many moons have waned it will be nearer, still. This is the consummation devoutly wished hereabout, as it would assuredly change Minersville from a quiet village to a bustling town almost in the twinkling of an eye.

The storm of last week played sad havoc with the sheep hereabout; they had lately been shorn, and the sudden change in the weather, together with their half-famished condition, made them the prey of the elements to the extent of some thousands. Their bodies in various stages of decay are

more or less numerous along every roadway, and the fragrance which is thus made to mingle with the desert air is not that of a flower garden by any means.

I have been spending several days in the sprawling, dreary forbidding wastes to the west and north of here some fifty miles or more. The country is dry all the year round except about this time, when it proudly distinguishes itself by being drier than at any other time. Great beds of sand frescoed with brush that can neither be burned nor eaten, a strong wind as ceaseless as the ripples of the sea, and a sun who reserves his most ardent smiles for those who have the temerity to enter the forbidden domain, mark the place distinctly in the memory of the wayfarer. There are some indications of gold in places, and this is ever enough to draw the human animal into the depth of desolation.

ESSAY CAIGH.

## PARLEY'S AND THE PARK.

There is considerable travel between Salt Lake and Park City nowadays, most of it being by way of the Utah Central railway. The freight business of the road is not heavy, the combine of the big railways shutting the little one out, and having reduced its operating force by about twenty-five men. But the passenger traffic is more convenient by the Utah Central route through Parley's canyon, there being one train each way daily. Parley's is now putting on its summer robes, and the ride through the canyon is decidedly pleasant. The train is composed of plain cars, with cane-bottomed seats and an absence of upholstery that is notable, but the ride is not long or tiresome. The train passes through a beautiful section of the Salt Lake valley, just now clothed in rich verdure surmounted by the beautiful coloring of peach and apple blossoms. Entering the canyon defile after the State prison is passed, it threads its way along the base of towering peaks, crossing and recrossing many times the dashing mountain stream, and going back and forth into and out of ravines past the few hundred acres of cultivated lands at what is known as Hardy's, up to the summit where, at the present time it goes for miles among the snows that have not yet cleared from the sheltered hillsides. From the summit there is a winding down to its base, then a climb up the park to a point 3,600 feet above the station in this city, and 7,700 feet above sea level; the stopping place is at the north end of Park city, which rises gradually above this point to nearly up to the Ontario mine, 8,500 feet above sea level.

At present the Ontario mill is shut down for repairs, and will be for a week or more; but the operations at the great mine, some of whose workings are 1,500 feet down the shaft, go steadily on. Connected with the regular work of the mine the great drain tunnel—which now sends out a large stream from its mouth, three miles from the mine—is being pushed over toward the Daly and is now about half way there. It will tap the Daly 750 feet below the lowest workings in that mine, and will drain that body of new ground for working.