

and next day she walked several miles in the town where she lived. It was a public case, one that was known to the whole town. Some acknowledged it was a miracle, but said it was through the power of the devil. Those principles have been with us from the beginning, and will be with us until the winding up scene, as far as we do our duty. We have this testimony before us, and the same is manifest in any congregation of the Saints anywhere. Some time ago I met a man and a woman against the Valley House here. The woman said to me, "Do you know me?" I said, "No, I don't." "Do you know this man?" "No, I don't." "Well," said she, "he was born dumb, and when he and I were baptized in Herefordshire, you laid hands on him and his speech was given to him, and he has been able to talk from that day to this." I do not speak of these things boastfully. We have no chance for boasting, because any man who has these gifts knows they are of God, and not of man. I never saw a minute in my life when I felt I had occasion to boast of any gift or blessing that God gave to me. Whatever power I have received, whatever I have been able to do, has been by the gift of God.

I pray God my Heavenly Father that we may always live in that way and manner that when we arrive on the other side of the veil we shall receive all those gifts and blessings that belong to the Saints of God who have been true and faithful in any age of the world. This people are called to preach the Gospel. We have traveled to almost all nations. Thousands, upon thousands have been brought into the Church. Many of them are gathered here in the valleys of the mountains. We trust that the course we are pursuing may be such that we may be justified before the Lord. There is no doubt but there is opportunity to improve in many of these things. With regard to religion, every man has a right to his religion. It is between him and God; and it is between us and God. Inasmuch as we do our duty, when we get through we shall inherit all the blessings that have been promised unto us; and so will any people that keep the commandments of God.

### WESTERN MINING KINGS.

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Denver, Jan. 20, 1898.—I held \$25,000 worth of solid gold in my two hands today. It was all I could lift, and when I dropped it down upon the floor it fell with a lead-like thud. The gold was in the shape of three bricks of about the size of the red clay bricks used for building. It was a part of the bullion in the vault of the mint here at Denver, and it formed about one-tenth of the gold which the mint now has on hand. One of these gold bricks was of a light yellow. Colonel Puckett, the chief of the mint, said that it had some silver in it. Another was darker in shade, and this I was told was gold gotten out by the new process of gold reduction, and the third was yellower than any golden eagle. It was almost entirely pure and will have to be much alloyed before it can be used for coinage.

Colbrado is now producing more gold than ever. The excitement about the Klondike has turned the eyes of the people to Alaska, but the miners out here are digging away and saying nothing. The officials of the mint tell me that they are receiving more of the precious metals than at any time in the history of the mint. Mr. David Moffat, the mining king, who has now it is said, a bigger income per month from his gold interests than President McKinley gets in a year from Uncle Sam, estimates that Colorado has pro-

duced something like \$22,000,000 worth of gold during the past twelve months, and he tells me that Cripple Creek alone is turning out something like \$1,000,000 in gold a month. The big mines there show no signs of giving out; and new ones have been opened. The big Cripple Creek mines are operated on a business basis. They are as economically managed as the department stores and as systematically worked as are great manufacturing institutions. The old gold camps are being prospected and new discoveries are being made. Said Mr. Moffat to me:

"I think the people are making a mistake in rushing to the Klondike. We have a Klondike here in the Rockies, which will pay better than that of Alaska. There are plenty of chances for young men out here. Only the smallest part of Colorado has been prospected, and there are gold fields in all parts of the Rockies which will pay for investigation. As for me, Colorado is good enough, and I don't care to go to any land where it is all ice three-fourths of the year and where you can't get much to eat during the remainder."

Senator John P. Jones, the mining millionaire of Nevada, does not agree with Mr. Moffat as to the Klondike. Jones is, you know, one of the most famous miners of the world, and has made a half a dozen big fortunes out of gold and silver ore. It was during a ride with him in a sleeping car the other day that I asked him his opinion of the Klondike. He replied:

"The gold discoveries of Alaska are the most wonderful that have ever been made. The discoveries of Australia and California were nothing to them. I started in a placer mining and from that day to this have been more or less interested in mines. I went to California in 1849, and was there during the early gold excitement. The country was filled up within a very short time, and you would meet a score of miners during a half day's march no matter in what part of the Rockies you went to prospect. The news of successes spread very fast, and the man who had made a find of \$5,000 in placer mining was known everywhere. There were thousands and tens of thousands mining, and the discoveries were comparatively few. Up in Alaska there are only a few thousand men at work, and they can labor only a small part of the year. Still they are turning out enormous amounts of gold. I know of dozens of men who have made fortunes, and I judge that the amount of gold there must be beyond conception enormous. I shall not be surprised if \$150,000,000 worth of gold is taken out of the Klondike next year. There will be more than 100,000 men there by the middle of the summer, and there is plenty of room for all."

"Do you think the discoveries will be confined to the Klondike?" I asked:

"No, indeed," was the reply. "I believe there is just as much gold in Alaska as there is in British Columbia. The Yukon river is 2,500 miles long, and there is gold all along it. The sands of the Alaskan islands contain gold, and I am told you can find color in almost any dirt you wash. You see, the forces of nature have been at work during the ages in Alaska to produce placer gold. It is my belief that most of the placer gold is found in the troughs of glaciers. We used to think that the gold in the mother lode of California was in the bed of an ancient river, which in some way had been elevated above the surrounding country. I believe it was the trough of a glacier, which had ground the gold out of the earth. Now in Alaska there are a hundred glaciers to every one further south in the Rocky Mountains, and the gold has been ground out by them. I think quartz mining will be success-

fully carried on in Alaska and that stamping mills will be put up within a short time after the discovery of the mines."

"Then you would advise a young man to go to Alaska?"

"I most certainly should," replied Senator Jones. "I would go myself, but I am too old now to do much mining in its first stages, and it is not a necessity with me. I can't see where the young man of today has much chance outside of Alaska. The money has all gone into the hands of bankers and capitalists, and there is little chance for energy unaided by capital. In Alaska every man has a chance to make a fortune."

"But think of the hardships, senator," said I.

"The hardships are greatly overestimated," was the reply. "The conditions will all be changed next year. You will be able to get to the Klondike by railroad by the latter part of the summer. Good hotels will be built, and you will find just as good cities there as anywhere. I have spent my life in the mining regions, and I know what money can do. There is plenty of coal in Alaska, and the accommodations will be such that one can live there very comfortably."

"What mining interests have you in Alaska, senator?" I asked.

"I have nothing in the Klondike," replied Senator Jones, "but I am one of the owners of the Treadwell mine. This is, you know, near Juneau, where the ships stop on their way to Sitka. It is on Douglas island, and is in many respects one of the most wonderful gold mines of the world. The ore is of a very low grade. It does not average more than \$3 per ton, and the mine has never paid less than half a million dollars a year."

"How did you come to get it, senator?"

"The mine was originally discovered by a French Canadian who came down from Sitka to prospect for gold. He learned of this mine through his brother-in-law, who was an Indian and after locating it he sold it to a man named Treadwell for a few hundred dollars. Treadwell organized a company to develop the mine, and it was in this way that I became interested in it. We first put up a five-stamp mill to test the ore, and when we found it would pay we put in other stamp mills, so that we have now some of the best mining machinery in the world right there. The ore is so close to the sea that it can be handled very cheaply."

"You were interested in the famous Comstock mines, were you not Senator Jones?" I asked.

"Yes," replied the millionaire miner. "I was considerably interested in the Comstock. I took about \$40,000,000 worth of gold and silver out of those mines, and I got \$4,000,000 out in one month. Those were very valuable mines, indeed. They are working some of them still. I personally superintended my works there up until my election to the United States Senate."

"Senator, you have made an enormous amount of money in mines. How do you do it, and what do you do with all the money?"

"Those are rather leading questions," replied Senator Jones. "Still I can tell you one thing. I have never hoarded money. I have given away a great deal, and have made and lost a half dozen fortunes. I believe that money was made to use, and I think the man who piles it up and will not let it go until he has two dollars security for every one he puts out is nothing more than a pawnbroker on a big scale. As to how to succeed in mining, I don't think any one can tell. The judging of a mine is to a large extent a matter of intuition and experience. You learn after a time to know a good thing when