

Written for this Paper.

THE DEEP CREEK COUNTRY.

"QUEEN OF SHEBA MINE,
Fifteen Mile Creek,
Juab County, Utah,
September 1, 1894.

"Friend Jim—I would be delighted to have you and your party join me tomorrow in making the ascent of Ibapah Peak. You informed me that you wished to see the Deep Creek country, and, if the day be clear, from the summit of this peak the surrounding country for a hundred miles, lies beneath you in panoramic view. Answer by bearer, Antelope Jack, who is a good Indian. Yours truly,

DR. J. M. BAILEY."

Thus read the note which an Indian brought to the Erickson ranch while we rested our horses for a day and partook of the hospitalities of the good people at this ranch in Deep Creek valley.

Our party of four had made a quick drive across the desert and Jim had sent a note to his old friend Dr. Bailey the day we arrived at Ibapah village, and the above invitation was the reply. The Indian courier was sent back with our acceptance, and in the afternoon we drove up to the Queen of Sheba. We were royally entertained by the genial doctor that evening, and early on the morning of the 2nd we mounted the sad-eyed cow ponies at our service and began the ascent of Ibapah Peak, the highest mountain in the Deep Creek range. This chain of mountains is the most extensive of the many which at intervals rise from the otherwise unbroken surface of the American Desert, and like the magnetic needle point to the north. As to location, they are about six miles east of the Nevada line and extend from the north end which is in Tooele county southward for thirty miles ending in a low pass called Johnson's, which lies in Juab county. The peak rears its granite head far above the timber line near the south end of the range, which at this point is deeply scarred by the north fork of Fifteen Mile canyon. From the mouth of this fork we begin the ascent. The trail leads directly up the canyon for a mile and then gradually ascends the north slope which is broken here and there by immense granite boulders which stand as sentinels to guard the approach to the kingly mountains far above. The south slope of the canyon near its mouth forms the base of the Red Mountain which also rears its Auburn head far above timber line and in its rugged side our good Dr. Bailey and his company are making a deep wound from which they are extracting the rich gold quartz for which the Queen of Sheba is becoming famous. Still the trail bears to the northward and upward and at an early hour we reach the top of the range where we have the packs taken off and after a cup of coffee and a frugal meal we leave the ponies in charge of the "good Indian."

Slowly we climb the steep and rocky path which now lies on the ridge or cone of the range and takes us directly north with a decided tendency upward. Breathing is found more difficult as we advance, and the party stops to drink in the ozone and view with wonder the ever increasing grandeur.

These steps become more frequent as the elevation increases, but the nearness of the summit calls forth renewed energy, and we finally scramble up a steep pitch and find ourselves upon the topmost peak of the Deep Creek range.

We are standing upon a solid granite floor, and a silence falls upon the party while each one takes in the immensity of the view afforded from this point.

The air is clear and bracing; the morning mists are rapidly disappearing beneath the warm rays of the sun, and as the moments pass some new object is exposed to view. Light and fleecy clouds are seen far below us on either side of the range hurrying along its sides and finally losing themselves in some deep gorge in the mountain side. To the east and north as far as the eye can reach stretches the desert its alkaline surface white and dazzling in the noonday sun. Southward its great white arms stretch out a hundred miles.

For fifty miles to the west low rolling hills are seen and then the eye rests upon a high range of mountains. A great dry ocean whose dangerous surface is agitated into waves of dust and sand by every breeze that blows, seems to surround us.

Jim breaks the silence by asking the doctor to give us a talk upon the country around us and as we silently smoke our corn cob pipes the doctor says:

"Boys, this is, as you can see, an extensive country. It is called the Deep Creek country I presume, because that is the only stream that flows upon its surface. We can do no better than to begin at a given point and work back to that point. That line to the east of us which stretches across the desert east and west is the road over which you came from Scribner's Ranch in Skull Valley to Granite Rock and thence to Ibapah. Scribner's, as you know, is about eighty miles out from Salt Lake City, a little south of west. Those mountains which are plainly seen in the east are the Grantsville range distant one hundred miles by the wagon road. Those on the north are the mountains of the Promontory near Terrace, Nevada. That high peak to the northward is Pilot's Peak and that to the southwest is Mount Moriah at whose western base lies Osceola with its rich gold products. To the south there lies White Mountain and Death canyon." Turning to the east again the doctor continued: "That spur of the mountain range which extends to the south from Cedar mountain, twenty miles west of Johnson's pass, takes you to the Indian creek mines, a distance of twenty-five miles to Simpson springs. That chain of hills extending south from Granite Rock is the Dugway range in which is located the famous Buckhorn mine, twenty-five miles west of Indian creek. Let your eye run south fifty miles and you are in the well known Drum district with its Ibex mine.

"From the point of Dugway due west and your eye rests upon a hard lava-like range. That is the Fish Springs range, with its district of the same name. You know the phenomenal output of the Utah and Emma mines, the rich character of the ore and the great hole made by hauling it to Des-

eret. The valley which lies between the Fish Springs range and the base of the mountain upon which we stand is twenty miles wide, and is properly the north end of Snake Valley which stretches away to the southwest for more than a hundred miles. It skirts along the base of this range twenty miles to Trout creek, with its galena and gold bearing ores, and thence to the southwest yonder until it touches the base of Mt. Moriah, whence it jumps into Millard county and then into the great White Pine county, Nevada. This Snake Valley is the largest valley in the western part of our state. Its thousands of acres are of the most productive soil, as its gardens and orchards bear witness. Along the western side of the valley where those prosperous ranches stand out in bold relief we have Trout Creek, Salt Marsh, Warm Creek, Cove Creek, Bakersville, Snake Creek and Burbank. Between the last named is the site of the big reservoir where water is to be stored to water the lands of this great valley. Work is now being done on the dam. That line which resembles a dugway along the side of the mountains to the west of Snake Valley is the Osceola ditch, which conveys water to the mill and placers at that camp.

"Just to the south here and east taking in Trout Creek and Pleasant Valley lies the Johnson's Peak district while to the west of Pleasant Valley where that black mountain stands out against the blue sky is Glencoe district with its Well Annie mine which under proper management will yet develop into a paying proposition. Glencoe, yes, it is fifty miles from where we are standing. To the north and west from Glencoe lies Silver Canyon with its little mining town of Aurum. Still further north is the Kinsley mountains. There is located Kinsley district and its many carbonate properties.

There to the northwest where a mountain chain seems to sink in an arm of the desert is Dolly Varden district with its old copper plant and its great deposits of that peculiar metal. Between that point and Pilot's peak are the Furbur and Ferguson Springs districts from forty to sixty miles distant. That fat looking mountain in the north end of this range is Dutch mountain, from which that district takes its name. In that district are found some very large deposits of ore and one day will make its own reputation for large outputs. To the east there of Dutch mountain is the Clifton hills and district. In this district is located the Gold Hill mill, owned by the Cane Springs Mining and Milling company. The Cane springs and Alverda mines supply the ore from which the golden harvest is gathered. In this district are many properties, principal among which are the Troy and the Midas, two very promising properties discovered this year and each carrying gold in splendid quantities. Along the eastern slope of this Ibapah range is the Willow Springs district, which is rich in quantity and quality of its silver and lead ores. On the west side of the range is Deep Creek district, in which are some fine prospects. This district which we are in is the Spring Creek district and, boys, to be candid, modesty prevents me from say-