

# FORTUNE'S FREAKS.

## ROMANTIC STORIES OF MEN IN THE COLORADO GOLD MINES.

Many Former Owners of Paying Properties Are Now Poor—Ups and Downs of a Miner's Life.

There are 12,000 men in Cripple Creek, and fully 10,000 of them are mourning over the fortunes they have lost, writes Frank G. Carpenter in the Washington Star. You will meet every day miners who will tell you how near they came to owning the Portland, the Independence, the Victor, or other big mines which are now turning out tens of thousands of dollars a month. Some will whisper how they sold mines for a song which are now worth millions, and others will curse their luck as they describe the fortunes which have slipped through their fingers.

I saw a man hauling logs at the town of Victor, near Cripple Creek, the other day, who sold a half-million-dollar mine to pay a grocery bill of \$40. He was earning \$3 a day, and he was working for the man who bought his mine. His name is Jerry Winchell. Four years ago he owned a number of the best locations in the Cripple Creek district, but now he is not worth a cent. The mine which went for grab is famous here. It is known as "The Last Dollar." Winchell located it in 1891, and not long after that, when he found himself in debt to the amount of \$40 to H. H. Mills, a groceryman, he gave him the mine to square the bills. Mills was not satisfied with the settlement. He objected, but Winchell had no money and he had to take it. Three years later, however, he sold the mine for \$75,000, and the purchaser resold it a month or so after that to Senator Wol-

ore and put it in my pocket. That night I had it assayed. It ran \$200 to the ton. I sounded Stratton and found I could get the mine for \$10,000 cash at an option of \$75,000. I replied that I could not make an offer until I could go through the mine and make a number of assays, and that while the first ore might run good, that which I got later might not be worth mining. This was agreed to, and I was just about to wire Eben Smith



BOB WOMACK'S CABIN, POVERTY GULCH.

that we had better buy the mine, when I got a letter from him, saying that the panic had struck Denver. He said that everything was flat, and that Moffat had written to him to go slow, and not to buy anything for a time. He told me to break off any negotiations I might have and go off fishing until the trouble blew over. I thought the matter would keep for a month, so I went fishing. Thirty days later I came back, only to find that Stratton had struck good ore, and that he would not sell at any price. He took out several thousand dollars that month, and now—well, no every one knows that the Independence mine is worth millions.

As I have said, Stratton offered to sell out a number of times during the earlier days of the Independence, but at this time there were none who had enough faith to buy. Now it is said that he is making such improvements that he will in time be able to take a million dollars' worth of gold out of the mine in a single day, and that one of his boasts is that he will soon ship

ously carried the rock to the top. After a time he rigged up a winlass and thus hauled it out. After some weeks he sent some of the rock to Pueblo to be assayed, a friend advancing him the cash to pay for the assay. The report was that the best ore contained eighty cents' worth of gold to the ton. In reading it, however, old Sterritt mistook the figures for \$8 instead of eighty cents. "That isn't at all bad," said he, and he went on mining. At last, however, he came to the end of his "grab," and he walked off to his home, thirty miles away, to work at his trade as carpenter for a week or so in order to save enough money to go on with his mine. While he was away the owners of one of the stamp mills examined the mine, and when he came back they offered him a dollar a ton for all the rock on the surface of his claim for a distance of 100 feet in length, twenty-five feet in width and six feet in depth. This Sterritt accepted, and he was soon making from \$10 to \$15 a day. In the meantime a speculator jumped his mine, and he had to fight for it in the courts.

The other miners, however, saw the injustice of the jumper's claim and they burned him in effigy and scared him so that he did not dare to appear at the trial. While the suit was pending Sterritt shipped more than \$12,000 worth of precious rock, and when he was offered \$40,000 for his mine he took it and left for his old home in Indiana. During the same year that he sold the Deer Horn shipped \$126,000 worth of ore. Within the past few months it has been resold and it is now to be operated in connection with the Summit mine, which adjoins it on the north. Its new owners intend to put in the finest of machinery and they claim that the mine contains a fortune in its immense bodies of low grade ore.

It is said to know that those who do the most for the world often reap the least reward. Marshall, who discovered gold in California, died a pauper. The man who laid bare the riches of the oil fields of Pennsylvania was in his last days dependent on charity, and Bob Womack, the prospector who first showed up the riches of this Cripple Creek gold camp, is now living in a little log cabin in sight of mines worth millions and struggling hard to get more than a living. His story is that of many miners. For twenty years he has been prospecting, and now, at forty-three, having found millions, he is worth nothing. He came to this region ten years in advance of any one else and staked out a number of claims, among others what is now known as the El Paso mine, which is said to be worth half a million. He owned this prospect for some time, but could not get others to believe in its riches. He



A RETORT OF CRIPPLE CREEK GOLD.

had no money to develop it and he finally sold it for \$300. A few months after he made the sale, one-third of the El Paso was sold for \$35,000, and it is now considered a very valuable property. It was Womack who first had faith in the Cripple Creek gold region. He held the El Paso for a long time before he sold it and he worked on the cattle farm of Bennett & Meyers upon which have since been located some of the best Cripple Creek mines, in order to get the money to continue his prospecting. He dug holes all over this farm in his search for gold. The owners of the farm laughed at him and told him that he must cover up his holes, as their cattle fell into them. He did this and went on. From time to time he took rock down to Denver to be assayed and he found that it ran as high as \$500 per ton. After the miners began to come to Cripple Creek he gave away a number of claims which he had on Gold Hill, and some of these claims within a year afterward sold for \$40,000. By the time the camp was in full blast he found himself worth nothing, and now he says of himself that his old friends pass him by with a sneer and those who have the most of the wealth which he has discovered do not even say "Have a cigar, Bob!"

**Coal Deteriorates From Exposure.**  
The result of recent analyses show that the loss of weight suffered by coal from exposure to the weather is considerable. In some cases it reaches 33.08 per cent, while the deterioration in quality for purposes of fuel or gas making reached a still higher figure.—Boston Budget.

**Taken at His Word.**



He—"How would you like to own a—er—a little puppy?"  
She—"Oh, Mr. Nobby, this is so sudden!"

# FASHION OILIO.

## SOME OF THE NEWEST FEATURES OF WOMAN'S WEAR.

A Handsome and Serviceable Cape Made of English Covert Cloth—A Stylish and Fanciful Waist With Bodice Effect.

GENUINE English covert cloth in an exquisite shade of dove color, with velvet in a darker shade, is effectively combined in the decidedly correct garment shown in the first large picture and described by May Manton. It is suitable alike for completing a visiting, calling or church toilet. The cape of becoming length is mounted over a short yoke lining of circular shape, thus insuring a perfect adjustment. The shaping is accomplished by eight gores, and may, therefore, be cut economically. No better design can be suggested in re-

flaring at the lower edge, falling deeply at front, back and well over the full padded sleeves. The neck is finished by a standing collar, beneath a tie and cravat bow of white tulle. The sleeves are close fitting to above the elbow, being one of the newest models, with deep gauntlet cuff facings of velvet. The design affords ample opportunity for stylish decorations and combinations of material. To the observant woman its possibilities are apparent. Fine French plaid, melanges, leather mixtures, Scotch plaids in rich tones, with velvet or silk trimmings, may be employed, or figured and striped materials combined with plain goods.

**THE LATEST IN HATS.**  
The fashion of wearing the large hats low over the forehead, until they seem ready to tumble off, milliners say is going out, though there are some widely-trimmed shapes, turned up at the back, that will need to be adjusted in pretty much the old way. But other large hats are running to a

# THE TURKISH PORTER.

The Hercules Whose Place of Business is on the Street.

The Turkish porter is one of the most interesting objects seen in a tour of the Orient. Of Herculean strength and power of endurance, he is usually prompt and obliging, also honest so



A TURKISH PORTER.

far as in him lies. He cannot speak the truth, and would not respect himself if he could for that is a virtue of the Frank.

His place of business is on the streets of his native town, where he can be found at all hours of the day, clad in a loose soiled jacket usually gray, with gray garters, Turkish shoes or sandals, the inevitable fez and a neckerchief that makes him look as if he were strangling.

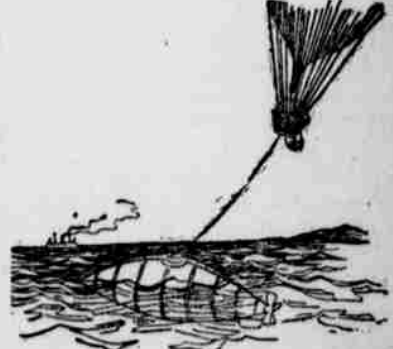
All the burden of conveying large or small articles falls upon him and he will for a gratuity carry a piano as easily as a trunk. He is the most contented of the working fraternity one meets abroad, whether he is found in the streets of Constantinople or in those of Stamboul, and the tourists make much of him because he is interesting. His occasional smokes under the shade of a mulberry tree, or his lazy sips of sherbert, being treats that renew his strength for the hard work by which he must live—if he is not able to sell merchandise. Being sturdy and industrious, the traits of the Turkish porter commend him to the public, hence a picturesque description of him by one traveler who named him the "Quaker of the Orient."

# BALLOONS FOR HARBOR DEFENCE.

A Frenchman's Plan to Hitch Them to Submarine Boats.

Much more has been done in France than in any other country to perfect a balloon which can be propelled horizontally and can be steered. Experiments in that line have long been conducted under the auspices of the French Army, and with such success that an airship of this class can be made to travel at a rate of fifteen or twenty miles an hour for a short time.

A new use of the balloon is now suggested in the country where it had its origin and has reached its greatest development. M. Pesce thinks that it might be employed for harbor defence in co-operation with a submarine boat. The latter could tow the balloon about easily, he thinks, if no attempts were



BALLOON AND SUBMARINE BOAT.

made to secure speed, and, consequently, there would be no necessity for equipping the airship with propelling machinery or with a rudder. Moreover, the occupants of the two vessels could be placed in telephonic communication with each other. The Frenchman proposes to use the balloon as an observatory, whence the position and strength of the enemy could be more readily perceived (he imagines) than from the conning tower of a submarine boat, and he would have the operations of the other twin directed from his aerial post. Only enough men to manage the boat and its torpedoes would be put inside of the submerged craft. If the balloon kept at a sufficient elevation to prevent its being hit by any of the guns of the enemy's fleet, and did not come within range of the marines' rifles, it might prove a useful adjunct of its marine consort in offensive as well as defensive warfare.

# Build Up the System.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell has just published a pamphlet, in which he takes the ground that not only the use of glasses, but the general building up of the system is necessary in most cases where the oculist is called in. A prominent dentist follows in the same lines, and says that the best way to cure constitutional and regular toothache is to strengthen the entire system and increase the bodily strength. In all the treatment of such cases a great advance has been made of late in the skill of the ophthalmologists and oculists.—Philadelphia Times.

# Paprika is Red Pepper.

"Paprika," so often referred to in modern cooking recipes, is Hungarian pepper, a red pepper that is more pleasant to the taste of many persons than cayenne, whose place it is taking. It is quite as pungent, but not really so harsh and strong.



CAPE OF ENGLISH COVERT CLOTH.

modeling one of last season's modes. The upper portion of the cape fits closely to the depth of the shallow yoke. From this point the additional material is laid in deep underlying plaits, providing the fashionable flare at the lower edge. The closing is effected through the center front by coat hooks and loops. An interlining of lightweight crinoline gives body to the wrap, while a pretty lining of two-toned silk is a pleasing addition. Further decoration is afforded by the ornamental straps that extend from the collar to the shoulder, and are decorated with bijou buttons. A distinctive feature is the high flaring collar, faced with velvet, that will prove both protective and becoming. All regulative cloakings are adapted to the mode, such as Melton, covert, whipcord, billiard cloth, broadcloth, etc., while peau de soie, rich brocade, satin or heavy cloaking silk will make up prettily in conjunction with velvet or fur.

The quantity of material 44 inches wide required to make this cape for a lady having a 36-inch bust measure is two yards.

# A STYLISH WAIST.

The newest feature is the bodice effect introduced in the stylish and fanciful waist depicted in the second large engraving, and also described by May Manton. In the present instance the material chosen is plaid silk, the ground of deep indigo blue being delightfully blended in colors of dahlia, green and gold. The bodice, fanciful



STYLISH WAIST WITH BODICE EFFECT.

color and lower portion of sleeves are of dahlia-colored velvet, outlined with galloon bands, studded with jewels of iridescent hue. The full waist is arranged over glove-fitted linings that close in the center front. The back fits smoothly across the shoulders, the fullness being drawn to the center by gathers at the lower edge. The pointed bodice closes at the left under arm seam. A stylish accessory is the handsome collar cut in deep pointed tabs,

# WILL BECOME POPULAR.

Corded silks and ribbed woolsens and velvets will be extremely popular for handsome gowns, entire street costumes, and elegant wraps this winter.

The Congressional Library at Washington has received a valuable addition to its collection in the shape of the letters of Washington collected by the late Dr. Joseph Toussaint.