

ARRIVAL AT EMPIRE CITY.

An early breakfast enabled us to reach Empire City, eleven miles further up the valley, at eleven o'clock in the morning. At no point along our road were we out of view of the gulch and mountain mining operations, being carried on by the sturdy and adventurous mountaineers.

Mr. Brown had informed us that we could not travel with our carriage nearer than a point about two miles from the pass; and that it would therefore be necessary for Mr. Williams and myself to procure saddle-horses at Empire for the balance of our journey. This, together with our hasty lunch, detained us about an hour at Empire City. In the meantime we were informed by gentlemen at Empire, that we could not make the ascent to the pass and return during the afternoon, and had, therefore, better defer the trip till morning. Mr. Williams, however, was too anxious to take a glimpse of the Pacific slope of the continent, and had come too far for that purpose, to be deterred by any such prognostications; and we therefore set out at twelve on horseback, after arranging with our driver to meet us at five o'clock with the carriage, at the foot of the trail.

Our road, still following the Valley of Clear Creek, was quite good for six miles of the distance, to the foot of the trail which leads from the wagon road up the southerly slope of the valley of a small tributary of Clear Creek, which heads near Berthoud Pass.

We made our way slowly up the trail without much difficulty, although in many places the path was quite steep and sideling, reminding one of the ascent as made years ago from the Glen House to Mount Washington. We dismounted several times to relieve our horses and