

## III.

SNOW-STORM IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS—EMPIRE CITY TO IDAHO, CENTRAL, GOLDEN AND DENVER CITIES—VIRGINIA CAÑON—RUSSELL GULCH—QUARTZ MILLS AT BLACK-HAWK—JUNCTION RANCH—GUY'S HILL—CLEAR CREEK CAÑON—ENTRANCE INTO DENVER, ETC., ETC.

DENVER CITY, COLORADO, *Thursday, Sept. 20, 1866.*

ON the morning of September 19th, we awakened at Empire City to find that we were in the midst of a Rocky Mountain snow-storm. The weather for several days previous had been delightful—even on the day before, during our visit to Berthoud Pass, not a cloud had bedimmed the sky until after sunset, when thin, hazy clouds began to settle below the mountain tops around us, all which, we were told, foreboded a storm.

As our venerable driver had not succeeded in his attempt to impose his old mules upon our worthy host of the Empire House, in exchange for a pair of horses, we were compelled to address ourselves to our return journey behind these much-abused animals ; and he to resume his powerful persuasives of the previous two days. The snow had not accumulated to any great extent upon the roads ; but it was falling fast, and prudence enjoined us to be early on our way. Our hitherto guide, and most intelligent and agreeable travelling companion, Mr. Brown, remained at Empire, for the purpose, when the storm abated, of rejoining his surveying party in the neighborhood of Boulder Pass.