

RETURN FROM EMPIRE.

Starting out at eight, we reached Idaho at ten in the morning, and stopped a few minutes to say some parting words to our friends of the Beebe House. We then commenced the ascent of the Virginia Cañon, and the descent of Russell Gulch, a distance of seven miles to Central City, which we reached at twelve.

I should not omit to mention, that in driving from Idaho to Empire the previous morning, we had met Messrs. Gukin and Ford, artists from Chicago, who were engaged in taking some mountain views; and were on their return from the Parks, where they had been spending the summer months. At their invitation we had promised to call at their camp as we returned, and look over their pictures; but the morning was so stormy, and their quarters looked so uninviting, that we contented ourselves with a passing salute, and a promise to visit their studios in Chicago on some future occasion. The place where we met these gentlemen is but a few miles from the Chicago Lakes, the scene of Bierstadt's great painting of the "Storm in the Rocky Mountains."

The snow had fallen to a depth of from six to eight inches on our arrival at Central City; and we were fully conscious of having lost, by reason of the thick-falling snow, as we passed down Russell Gulch to Central City, many fine views, as well as a passing inspection of some of the finest and most extensive quartz mining and crushing operations now being carried on in this part of the Territory. The result, however, was unavoidable, and we were obliged to content ourselves with such information as our venerable driver could give us, he being familiar with the country, and part owner of some of