

steamboat, with upper cabin, chimneys, pilot-house, etc., the passer-by pausing unconsciously to hear the bell ring, and the familiar cry of "All aboard," before it shall start away.

Our wagon, having followed the travelled road, which we were compelled in a great measure to avoid, had obtained some distance the start of us; and we did not overtake it until about two P. M. Having been in the saddle at least six consecutive hours, we were very glad to dismount, and, after unsaddling, watering and picketing our horses, and extending ourselves upon the grass in the shade of the wagon, partake of a lunch which our commissary (McLain) had made ready for us; after which a ride of three hours brought us to Virginia Dale, one of the stations of the Overland Stage Company.

#### A NIGHT AT VIRGINIA DALE.

This is a most beautiful amphitheatre, surrounded by mountains, with Dale Creek running through the centre; and is near the boundary line between Colorado and Dakotah. Gen. Dodge here suggested that all the requisites for a good camping ground were at hand, to wit—wood, water, and plenty of grass for our animals; but while the wagon was coming up, I took the liberty of riding forward to the stage ranch, and received the gratifying intelligence that the proprietor was prepared and willing to afford both man and beast very comfortable accommodations for the night. Mr. Williams at first objected, saying that he had come out expecting and fully prepared to rough it in the mountains, sleep on the ground, &c., and he thought it was about time to try it; but he finally yielded very gracefully; and, after providing for the comfort of our horses, we soon found ourselves seated