

now and then get into our eyes, or find out any half-healed wound which the blazing sun of the previous weeks had inflicted upon our faces. So rapid is the evaporation in the dry air of this region that the skin after being wetted is almost immediately crusted with salt. I noticed, too, that the wooden steps leading up to the pier were hung with slender stalactites of salt from the drip of the bathers. After being pickled in this fashion we had the luxury of washing the salt crust off with the *douche* of hot water wherewith every dressing-room is provided.

It was strange to reflect that the varied beauty of the valleys in the neighbouring mountains, with their meadows, clumps of cottonwood trees, and rushing streams, should lead into this lifeless stagnant sea. One could not contemplate the scene without a strong interest in the history of the Great Salt Lake. The details of this history have been admirably worked out by Mr. G. K. Gilbert. Theoretically, we infer that the salt lakes of continental basins were at first fresh, and have become salt by the secular evaporation of their waters and consequent concentration of the salt washed into them from their various drainage basins. But in the case of the Great Salt Lake the successive stages of this long process have been actually traced in the records left behind on the surface of the ground. At present the amount of water poured into the lake nearly balances the amount lost by evaporation, so that, on the whole, the level of the lake is maintained. There are, however, oscillations of level dependent, no doubt, upon variations of rainfall. When the lake was surveyed by the Fortieth Parallel Survey in 1872, its surface was found to be eleven feet higher than it was in 1866. During the last few years, on the other hand, the lake has been diminishing, The Mormons have had to build additions to the ends of their bathing piers,