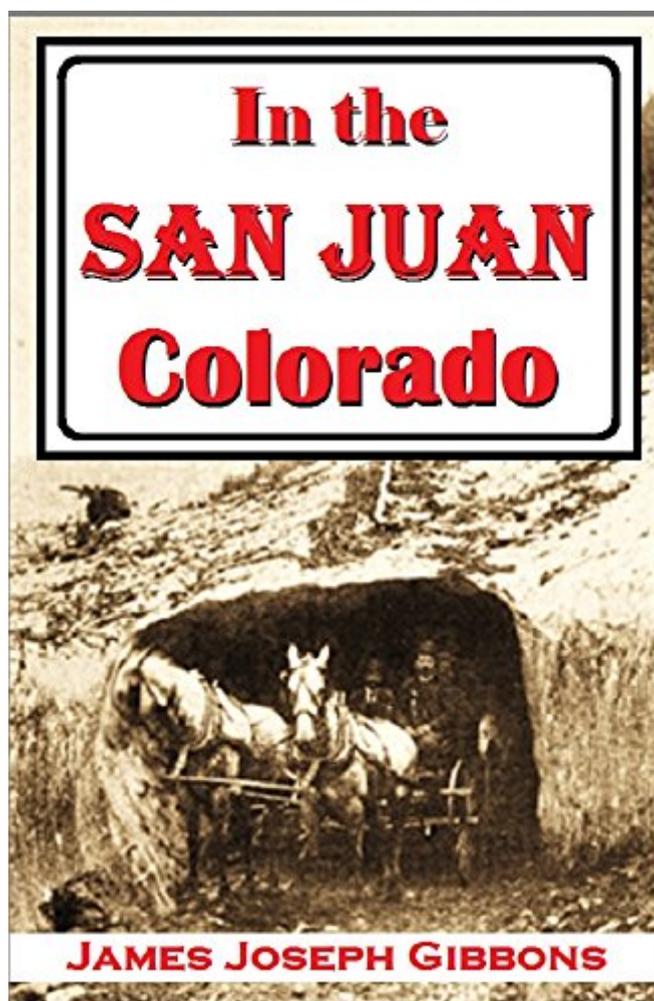


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# In The San Juan, Colorado: Sketches (1898)



## Synopsis

Rev. J. J. Gibbons experienced the San Juan Mountains of Colorado as few men ever did. At the end of the nineteenth century, when avalanches ran, mines exploded, and plagues hit hard - everyone backed off except for Gibbons. It was his job to tend the sick, give last rites, bury the dead, and bring comfort to the grieving families. So even when the weather was at its worst, Father Gibbons set out on foot or on horseback to bring comfort to those individuals in need of a Catholic priest. In the San Juan tells stories of skeletons along the trailside, men blown to bits while warming dynamite on a stove, and the power of avalanches that kill not only those in the way, but also would-be rescuers who came in later. Responsible for an enormous territory that covered 10,000 square miles of some of the most rugged terrain in the United States, Father Gibbons was a living testament that faith in God helped good men to make it through terrible times.

FIRST SKETCH First Experiences in the San Juan  
Land of mountains and plains  
Home of the Cliff-Dwellers

SECOND SKETCH Funeral in the Rockies  
A daring and expert horseman  
The cowboy and the wild broncho

THIRD SKETCH From Dallas to Telluride  
A genial stage-driver  
A hero of the Crimea

FOURTH SKETCH A Social and Religious Center  
Excursion party in the interests of science and religion

FIFTH SKETCH Celebration of a Festival  
An unhappy marriage  
Bear Creek Falls festooned with snow

SIXTH SKETCH Thrilling Incidents of a Hunting Trip  
Superior qualities of the broncho  
The bear and the prospectors

SEVENTH SKETCH A Devoted Mother in Adversity  
A captain meets reverses of fortune

EIGHTH SKETCH The Blasphemer's Fate  
Faithful friends lost in an avalanche

NINTH SKETCH Baneful Effects of Intemperance  
Reflections upon the evils of intemperance

TENTH SKETCH Old Gray, the horse with one ear  
On a hogback  
Dolores and the early missionaries

ELEVENTH SKETCH Sheriff's posse in pursuit of robbers  
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TWELFTH SKETCH Colorado among the States  
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San Juan's future

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