

The California Gold Region.

It is now nearly two years since the discovery of the gold mines in the country, and yet it is for the first time, we can say, that we are able to give a correct account of them...

It is not to be understood that we are going to deny the mines; no, far from it, we mean to divert them from the mantle which heated fancy cast about them; and represent the simple truth without any poetic ornaments.

On the outset we wish it to be understood that we speak advisedly; we have surveyed, so to speak, the length and breadth of the mines by personal inspection and observation, at a great expense of our time, money and labor, and besides we claim the right to presume somewhat upon the authority of science.

The region which here is known as the gold mines, is closed on the east by the Sierra Nevada, or Snowy Mountains, running nearly north and south. Two large streams descend from the Sierra Nevada, one at the north called the Sacramento river, the other on the south known as San Joaquin. These two streams run, as if purposely, to an apex of the triangle they enclose, there to meet and make common and united irrigation upon the waters of San Francisco Bay.

The surface of the country, looking westward from the ridge of the Snowy Mountains, which may be from five to six thousand feet above the level of the sea, is broken up into ridges, giving direction to the streams that separate, some west by north, others west by south, and gradually growing smaller, they get confused into hills; till finally soften into the plains enclosed by the two above mentioned rivers.

The range of mountains in which gold is found is distinguished by a uniformity of its vegetable kingdom, which is neither meagre nor very abundant. The oak predominates here, only now and then relieved by several varieties of the pine family. As the gold disappears, the reign of the pine and the granite extends. The depositaries of gold look universally more smiling to the beholder than their barren neighbors; the former always have the figure described by the line of beauty, viz: the curved line, be they ever so precipitous as they frequently are; a distinction never to be lost sight of.

of the stone, always tending to a rounded form, as the case with all the stones that fall either into the Sacramento, or San Joaquin; the lateral boundaries of these lots would be the ridges on both the north and south side, that turn the minor bank, it puts on platelike appearance, as if it were hammered out by the frequent action of stones under which it is deposited. Water, that universal carrier, washing the sides of the hills, brought gold from their surface into the ravines and rivers, to which its own weight facilitated the process.

According to the strength of the current of water, the weight of the particles of gold, and the obstacles in the way, it is deposited in one or another spot, the lighter particles of course floating away the farthest from their original bed. As this process of gold deposition has taken place in some remote period of the earth's existence, hence we find all these deposits, generally speaking, covered with greater or smaller masses of sand, gravel, and stones. Strictly speaking, gold does not belong to the rivers, it was washed into them from the adjoining hills; hence it is useless to look for gold at the head of these streams, when the neighboring hills are not of the auriferous nature; and we find this fact corroborated by our personal examination of the heads of the streams of the gold region.

The mode of deposit being made clear, it will be equally clear that it is not on every spot in this very auriferous region that particles of gold may be deposited a considerable distance below their original source. This mode of deposit being made clear, it will be equally clear that it is not on every spot in this very auriferous region that particles of gold may be deposited a considerable distance below their original source.

By the above disposition of the mineral region, we conceive, the country will be greatly benefited. The mineral region being under the sole control of mining companies, they will exclude all private adventurers; the first, benefiting the commerce by checking through imperfection of their labor have left; the now unavoidable desertion of the crews; consequently the work becomes more heavy and less profitable, although it may be yet sufficiently compensatory if the amount of gold living be not excessive. This is precisely already the case, the labor is much harder than it was last year. At present there are not so many of those happy huts as formerly, although we yet bear the sound of the ax and the saw, which, however, when it reaches the ears of the public, becomes extremely distorted, and particularly so, when companies that have damaged some spots of some of the rivers wish to dispose advantageously of their shares; these calls for the moment will be put on a firm footing and will grow to the public through the press. The accounts of successful digging in gold that went abroad never have accompanied this new territory; yet we are free to confess that there is no harder labor than that of gold digging and washing; this species of labor requires the strongest sinews cured to fatigue. Peculiar localities, together with general discomfort attending upon the life of the miner, may make gold digging particularly irksome. Yet all this can be borne, and one's labor may sometimes be crowned with a brilliant success. We have made the above statement with the view of laying the facts before those who may yet be novices in the matters that they may understand their own case; through the mineral region, as well as rail-roads tracks across the continent to the Pacific shores, as we believe we are in possession of a little better data than the government itself can command. But for the present, in forbearance for our readers, we close.

The Gold Emigration.

Annexed is a list of the arrivals for the month ending August 29, of males and females, at this port, by sea:

Table with columns: From, Males, Females. Rows include New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Warren, R. I., Mystic, New Bedford, New London, Panama, Mazatlan, Valparaiso, Hong Kong, Sandwich Islands, Calcutta, Liverpool, Singapore, Sydney, N. S. W., Rio de Janeiro, Greenport, Manila.

Of which, Males 3342 are Americans do Females 42 do Married Females, 6 Unmarried, 81

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