

**Gold Production.** From the exceedingly interesting **Increase** report of Director Roberts, of the **\$53,000,000.** United States Mint Bureau, we gather the following figures, showing the enormous increase in the gold production.

COUNTRIES.	1896.	1897.	1898.
United States .....	\$53,088,000	\$57,363,000	\$64,463,000
Australasia .....	44,166,386	52,680,656	67,479,943
Mexico .....	8,331,700	9,436,300	10,301,125
Russia .....	21,533,800	23,245,700	25,463,497
Germany .....	1,135,100	1,373,100	.....
Austria-Hungary .....	2,152,700	2,235,600	.....
Sweden .....	76,100	84,400	.....
Italy .....	140,200	194,400	165,929
Spain .....	.....	38,028	38,028
Portugal .....	12,300	10,300	10,300
Turkey .....	7,300	7,300	7,300
Servia .....	14,317	14,317	14,317
Great Britain .....	24,600	35,100	.....
Canada .....	2,810,200	6,027,100	13,775,420
Newfoundland .....	62,000	62,000	62,000
Argentina .....	315,000	137,600	137,694
Columbia .....	2,165,200	2,095,400	2,125,400
Bolivia .....	103,000	103,000	103,000
Ecuador .....	132,900	132,900	40,176
Chili .....	750,000	725,330	725,000
Brazil .....	1,001,100	1,057,823	1,794,420
Venezuela .....	548,500	1,057,823	1,057,823
Guiana (British) .....	2,213,100	2,294,600	2,341,058
Guiana (Dutch) .....	481,800	492,200	517,723
Guiana (French) .....	2,107,400	1,537,500	1,402,006
Peru .....	116,600	628,000	628,000
Uruguay .....	33,600	38,500	38,500
Central American States .....	470,500	470,500	473,740
Japan .....	528,929	503,159	573,600
China .....	8,238,382	7,478,744	6,009,313
Korea .....	721,800	1,020,391	1,020,391
Indo-China .....	413,381	564,910	564,910
Borneo .....	65,131	65,131	65,131
Other Dutch East Indies .....	.....	51,248	51,248
British N. Guiana .....	147,541	147,541	137,541
British India .....	6,131,536	7,127,371	7,774,823
South African Republic .....	43,779,669	57,643,861	79,171,162
Other African .....	801,399	924,821	1,119,491

It will be observed that since 1896 both the United States and Australasia have had to surrender the first place to Africa, and, as the returns of her production for the present year are estimated by some at \$100,000,000, there is no doubt she will lead the world in the productiveness of gold fields for many years to come. It will also be noted that the prospects of Canada are brighter than those of any other country, the comparative increase in her output of the yellow metal totally eclipsing the extraordinary figures furnished by the South African Republic

#### A Brief Reign.

A dispatch from San Francisco says that Alexander McDonald, known as "King of the Klondike," has failed, with liabilities estimated at \$6,000,000 and assets of uncertain value. He is reported to have started again as a poor miner, leaving his wife in Dawson, after assigning all his interests, both mining and trading, for the benefit of his creditors. The declaration of insolvency was filed at Dawson on July 29. Such, in brief, is the latest story concerning one of whom the London "Daily Telegraph" in February last in a glowing account of his marriage said:—"Mr. Alexander Macdonald was born 39 years ago in the town of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, of Scottish parents." We took occasion at that time to deplore the failure

of the "Telegraph's" editor to become geographically acquainted with this country, and we declined to accept as reliable his version of the remarkable career of Mr. Alexander Macdonald, who, according to this London newspaper, when in Mexico was ruined by "the very richness of his mines;" departed for the gold fields of Alaska (!) in 1895, when Dawson City was a collection of huts; became king of Klondyke and the possessor of twenty-seven millions sterling (\$135,000,000.)

However, the King of the Klondyke romance has had a sufficiently dramatic termination to warrant us in wishing that the downfall of this monarch of the frozen north is not so complete as pictured by the press. To be the possessor of \$135,000,000 in February and a poor miner in July is almost too sudden a transition. But the career of Macdonald opens a very interesting field of philosophical speculation, and would make good material for a stirring drama, especially if the hero could be represented first in the mines of Mexico, then as the comet of a London season, and lastly, while

*"sympathetic tears our cheeks bedew,"*

again donning the rough clothing of a poor miner and leaving the stage for the gold fields of Alaska. Curtain.

#### The Mother's Guidance.

One of the prettiest pleas in favour of life insurance recently appeared in the "Equitable Record." The writer has succeeded in gilding an advertisement with an urgent prayer or entreaty to men to perform a sacred duty. The item reads:—

Those who believe that the human mind is handed down, like an heirloom, from one generation to another, must admit that it needs a vast amount of directing while it is in youthful possession. The strong mind, after being transmitted from father to son, may need more guiding than the common mind. Every community furnishes evidence of the fact that many of the sons of superior men do not rise to eminence. Those who do are, usually, lifted by their mothers from the dust in which most men are prone to grovel. Her love, her guidance, her thought, her care is their shield and buckler. The softening, elevating influence of the most sacred form of human love is doing more than blood to fit the rising generation to rise.

All, therefore, who are most anxious that their children shall occupy high places should be eager to give them the full benefit, in the days of their youth, of the maternal guidance that has made great men in every generation. This guidance cannot be given in full measure if the mother must earn the money to shelter, feed and clothe her children. Thousands of fatherless children are daily deprived of a mother's care because they were first deprived of the benefits of life assurance.