

MINING.—Continued.

relationship gave me glimpses of home life in Cape Breton that would hardly have been open to an ordinary tourist.

The roads had been badly cut up by heavy teams hauling girders for the iron bridges and supplies for the men working on the new railroad, the rain poured ceaselessly down, but protected by the covering of the buggy and the rubber apron in front, and enlivening the way by pleasant chat and soothing smoke, we bowled comfortably along through a rather monotonous country until shortly before dark we arrived at a comfortable farm house, the home of an uncle of my companion, where we decided to spend the night. We drove to the barn without seeing a soul; put up the horse and were just starting for the house when the uncle drove up. It was a pleasant meeting between uncle and nephew and I was also most cordially welcomed. The aunt was ailing, but on going to the house she at once prepared supper, in spite of our protest that we had eaten, and treated us with a hospitality that was charming. I had never heard Gaelic spoken before, and must confess to having fallen in love with the language at once. I imagined it harsh, but as used in conversation by our host it was soft and liquid and almost musical. The Gaelic grace was solemn and sonorous, and I was charmed with the simple piety of our entertainers. There was here no mere lip service, but a true religion that beautified the cosy home and would have disarmed the most persistent mocker.

After tea, bibles were handed round, and after family devotions, the aunt retired, leaving us to chat and smoke until bed time. Sturdy sons and handsome daughters had gone out from this island home and had carried into the world with them the honesty and perseverance taught, and as a result all were prosperous. One son was in Alaska, and another in the West. A daughter whose portrait showed a handsome intelligent looking woman had married in Maine, and letters and papers just received gave pleasing accounts of the graduation with honors of a grand-daughter. The thriftiness, the love of learning, the piety of the Scottish character, were here well exemplified, and I for the first time realized the reason that both individually and as a nation they are respected.

ADIOS AMIGO.

(To be Continued.)

The following are the official returns for the month of June, so far as received at the Mines Office:

District.	Mill	Tons Crushed.	oz. Gold.
Sherbrooke.....	Miners.....	200.....	41
Salmon River.....	Dufferin G. M. Co's	850.....	220
Waverley.....	McClure	118.....	47
".....	Wallace.....	65.....	10½
Lake Catcha.....	Oxford G. M. Co.....	144.....	220
".....	" (Anderson) 33		23
Whiteburn.....	Whiteburn G M. Co... ..	64.....	112
Fifteen Mile Stream.	Egerton G. M. Co	220.....	102

The "Crows Nest" mine, owned by Messrs Forayth, Hayward, et. al., in Guysborough County, has, we understand, been sold to English parties.

VOLATILE GOLD.—It has long been known that gold is to some extent volatile at high temperature; but it is evidently far more volatile than has hitherto been believed. Mr. Crookes mentioned incidents at the last meeting of the English Chemical Society that he has found gold to boil violently when heated in the oxyhydrogen flame, and, in fact to be so volatile that there would seem to be no doubt that it might be distilled in an apparatus similar to that employed by Stas in distilling silver.

Vancouver, in British Columbia, being the Pacific terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, promises to become a most important centre of mineral reduction. A bonus of \$25,000 has been paid by the city to a company that has undertaken to build smelting works at that point; works that may naturally be expected to command an abundant supply of the requisite ore from mining properties whose products at present are being shipped either to Omaha or to San Francisco at a cost of at least \$20 per ton, but which can now be laid down at Vancouver by the Canada Pacific at a freight cost of only \$4 per ton—so low a rate of transportation that it must have the effect of developing other mines. In fact, though the Canada Pacific was only completed to Vancouver so that a through train could reach there from the Atlantic, on the 23rd May, 1887, since then no less than thirty-eight mining claims have been recorded in the Cariboo district, with 507 at Illicillewaqet, 60 at Donald and a number elsewhere in that quarter. It is to be remembered that British Columbia has produced more than \$60,000,000 in placer gold in the past.

Hempstead County, Arkansas, claims to have recently discovered within her borders a rich coal mine, and also natural gas and coal oil in paying quantities.

NATURAL SMELTER.—On the North Saskatchewan river in the Northwest Territory of Canada, about 80 miles above the town of Edmonton, Alberta, there is an interesting example of naturally reduced iron. Along the river bank a lignite formation crops out for several miles, overlaid by clay shales and soft argillaceous sandstones containing nodules of clay ironstone. These nodules are similar to others found at Edmonton, and proved by analysis to be carbonate of iron, containing 34.98 per cent of metallic iron. The Saskatchewan seams of lignite has at some time been burnt, leaving a bed of ashes, cinders and burnt clay, in places 20 feet thick, and now covered by a dense growth of grass and underwood. From this mass of burnt clay pieces of metallic iron can be picked out weighing in some cases 15 or 20 pounds.

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