

evidence of Insurance Companies on the side of abstainers from the popular poisons might be largely adduced; but our limits are already exceeded, and personally we dislike statistics as much (may we confess it?) as brandy and water, regarding them as a cup which neither cheers nor inebriates. Let us in conclusion assure the readers who have been patient enough to read thus far, that we have no connection whatever with the Temperance League, nor the least desire to damage any branch of legitimate trade in solids or liquids. We live too near the State of Maine, and know too much of the state of Scotland to feel sanguine as to the success of any attempts to make men sober by legislative enactment, or what has been not inaptly styled, *maine* force. But there is, we are happy to believe, an under current of common sense and a prudential power of self-restraint, which, apart from all appeal to higher motives, may induce some people to look at facts, when placed fairly before them, which may hitherto have escaped their notice. It has been our endeavour to state facts fairly, and all we would claim for them is that, if true, they are significant and worth knowing.

MY POUND OF GOLD.

NEVER shall I forget the feeling of despondency with which my first view of the famous Forrest Creek diggings over-powered me. A month's uncomfortable sojourn under canvas on Liardet's beach, near Melbourne, while waiting for the means of transporting our luggage into the interior, had indeed in a measure disenchanted me with the colony; and though plates full of nuggets were to be seen in the Melbourne shop-windows, surmounted by cards bearing pressing invitations to lucky miners to sell their precious metal at the highest price, the numbers of disappointed diggers who daily flocked into town in a state of comparative destitution, and who eagerly sought employment as stone-breakers and road-menders, told plainly enough that gold was not likely to become a "drug in the market" for a little while longer, and that though there were many prizes, the number of blanks was also considerable. Nevertheless I was hardly prepared for the utter dreariness of the scene which burst upon my two companions and myself, when on the fourth day from leaving Melbourne, after a tiresome tramp beside the dray which carried our baggage, picks, shovels and crowbars, we entered a valley about three hundred yards wide and several miles in length, so closely honey-combed by pits, that with the exception of the narrow road along which we travelled, there was barely room for a footpath between them. Beside and