

sons were rushing in, and the proprietors of the land claimed protection from the Government. Their acquiescence in any policy that might be adopted, was easily obtained, and a deputy surveyor was sent down to Tangier, with instructions to lay off a few lots, 50 feet by 20—to charge a rent of forty dollars for them—to keep the peace, and to report from time to time to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, to whose custody, by the act of last session, the mines of the Province have been transferred.

“Though the rent was high, and the areas small, some lots were taken up by the sanguine and adventurous, led by a few persons who had worked in California and Australia. Though no very great discoveries were made, confidence in the deposits steadily increased, and the pioneers worked on with cheerfulness and industry.

“Until recently only two attempts have been made, at Tangier, to work any but single claims. A small company, headed by William Chambers, Esq., have combined four or five lots, and are running a tunnel through them; and Mr. Robert Sibley, who acquired some experience, and made some money by mining in Australia, has leased from the Government three quarters of an acre, and is sinking a shaft to enable him to work his claim at all seasons of the year.

“The lowest depth yet reached is 45 feet, and the largest nugget found is valued at \$300. The gold is got in quartz veins, running through slate or earth resting upon granite, in the form of scales, jagged and torn bits, like shot or bullets fired against a wall. It is sometimes globular, but seldom completely round. The veins run east and west. It is found in the soil immediately around the veins, but placer washing has not been very profitable at Tangier, or perhaps has not been attempted on a scale sufficiently extensive to command a fair return. A new lead has just been discovered, and there is every reason to anticipate that as capital and skill, aided by reliable machinery, accumulate at Tangier, the precious metal will be procured with less labor and yield a more abundant return.

“In other countries the discoveries of gold have attracted mixed multitudes to the mines, of which the reckless and dissolute often form a large proportion. Robbery, riot and murder have characterized these mixed communities, both in California and Australia. A strong police force is required to keep order, the treasure secured can only be transported over the roads, guarded