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HALIFAX, N. S. AUGUST 11, 1863.

## MORE ABOUT GOLD.

We resume the subject where we left off—viz: of Gold in Australia.

Taking the actual amount shipped from Melbourne to the end of March, 1852, and allowing for the quantity then supposed to be at the diggings and waiting shipment, it would appear that about 700,000 ounces had been raised in Victoria, worth about £2,100,000, which, by calculation, allowed £42 10s. average monthly wages for each digger. The amount raised in New South Wales to the same date was estimated at 320,000 ounces, value £960,000, averaging £31 2s. monthly for each digger.

The gold fields in Australia stretch over 1000 miles in a south-westerly direction from Moreton district to Ballarat; and it would be tedious to pursue further the estimates of quantities found in and shipped from these Colonies. Great as the first discoveries were, the course of operations did not go on with uninterrupted success. The usual uncertainties which have ever been proverbial in gold seeking have been experienced in their full extent in Australia. We hear of the fortunate few, but there is small notice taken of the unfortunate many. Thousands who hurried on to the Gold Fields of Australia, flushed with the hope of acquiring wealth, or an early independence, were doomed to disappointment and the privations incident to poverty, and would gladly have returned to the land of their fathers had they only possessed the means. But necessity compelled them to remain, and work for what they could obtain. No doubt the farther discoveries and quantities of gold continuously shipped are due to this circumstance—so many being compelled to apply themselves, as their only resource, to the work which they would have willingly abandoned. Some of these,

after going through a lengthened ordeal, at last, succeeded beyond their expectations. Of this, the following is a remarkable illustration:—

In August, 1859, a lump of gold, weighing 184 pounds, which we believe is the largest of pure metal that has yet been dug in any country, was exhibited in the Bank of England. The pit or claim from whence it was taken was worked by two poor men, who, considering this an ample fortune for both, felt disposed to retire from further work. The news of such a prize spread fast, far and wide, and the fortunate men found no difficulty in selling their claim for £2000; but the unfortunate purchasers dug deep, and searched long, without finding any of the precious metal, and finally abandoned the pit as worthless.

We may add another anecdote of ultimate unexpected success. A speculator who had sunk a pit ninety feet deep without any sight of gold, gave up the search. A company was formed in the neighbourhood of which the settlement Butcher was the chief, and buying the right to the claim for a small sum sunk the pit thirty feet deeper without better success. They had expended all their means upon the work and decided upon giving it up. Accordingly the last blast was made one night, and leaving the pit until next morning that the smoke might clear away, the Butcher offered all rights to it at the public house for £15—and only got laughed at for his offer. With a heavy heart next morning he went down to take away the tools, when to his inexpressible surprise and joy, he saw the glittering treasure at last exposed in abundance. The company went to work again, and after realizing a handsome fortune from the mine, sold out to another company who were equally fortunate. This company again sold out to a third, who also were wonderfully successful, and for all we know may still be carrying on their operations profitably.

There are many melancholy accounts of severe disappointments, and the hard fate

of not a few, who ventured their all in gold mining in Australia—confirming the record of all generations of the prevailing misfortune in gold seeking. True, there are many who are successful, and a few are very fortunate; but these are exceptions to the rule. It is now ascertained beyond doubt that if the value of all the gold obtained in Australia was equally divided amongst those engaged in seeking for it, the wages would amount to far less than each could have earned by ordinary labour. And when the fortunes gained by the few are taken from this sum total, think how miserably poorly paid the overwhelming majority must have been!

## IMMENSITY OF THE UNIVERSE.

Baron Zach, an eminent astronomer, computes that there may be a thousand millions of stars in the heavens. If we suppose each star to be a sun, and attended by ten planets—leaving comets out of the calculation—we have ten thousand millions of globes like the earth, within what are considered the bounds of the known universe. As there are suns to give light throughout all these systems, we may infer that there are also eyes to behold it, and beings whose nature in this one important particular is analogous to our own. To form an idea of the infinitely small proportion which our earth bears to this vast aggregate of systems, let us suppose five thousand blades of grass to grow upon a square yard, from which we find, by calculation, that a meadow one mile long, by two-thirds of a mile in breadth, will contain ten thousand millions of blades of grass. Let us then imagine such a meadow stretches out to the length of a mile before us, and the proportion which a single blade of grass bears to the whole herbage on its surface, will express the relation which our earth bears to the known universe. But even this is exclusive, probably, of millions of suns “bosomed” in the unknown depths of space, and placed forever beyond our ken, or the light of which may not have had time to travel down to us since the period of their creation.