



*It is also known*

# WEEKLY EXPOSITOR,

## OR REFORMER OF PUBLIC ABUSES, AND RAILWAY AND MINING INTELLIGENCER.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1846.

[No. 1.]

*Love Description of the Superior Country: also a Minute Account of the Copper Mines of the Lake Superior. New York, 1846.*

...treating of this interesting subject, the pen of an American, Mr. John D. Sullivan, and published in New York in the course of the present year, has recently been put into our hands. Although not written in the happiest style, and overburdened with unnecessary quotations of the most ostentatious kind, which, in some degree, weaken the very strength the author is desirous of putting forth, we have deemed the account to be of sufficient interest to justify us in selecting such passages of a general nature as we conceive will be acceptable to those of our readers who have specialised in the explanation of what has up to a very late period, been considered a barren and unproductive region. These we think will fail to peruse that portion of the extracts we have selected, without being sensible that a new and important source of wealth upon Canadian soil exists, and that it is one direction the newly-awakened spirit of independence of dependence which is fast developing itself among the people, will in a few short years more immediately connect us with the Atlantic, from which we are in a great measure entirely shut out. Not less important advantages await us on the other side, where a fertilized country, rich in wealth and abounding in resources, will, when means are provided adequate to the end, offer temptations not only to the man of business, bent on the acquisition of worldly wealth, but to the distant traveller—the lover of the beautiful and the picturesque in nature—the man who roams in quest of health, or in the pursuit of an unalloyed and simplified enjoyment.

We make these remarks in regard to Canada, for, although the volume under consideration treats, in its mineral details, more immediately of the rich veins of ore that are to be found on the Southern, or American, shore of Lake Superior, it is well-ascertained even up to the present period, although no report of the fact has been made by the Geologists now in that region, that the Northern or Canadian copper is not behind, even if it be not superior in richness to the American. What therefore has been written in favour of the one, is equally applicable to the other; and it is under this view of the subject that, while contenting ourselves this week with giving those general features of scenery common to both shores of the Superior, as well as these recommendations which are offered for the guidance of such as may feel desirous of ex-

ploring the country, either as operatives or tourists, we shall in our next number copy the author's more general remarks as to the mineral productions, and more particularly the copper, in which the whole of that distant region abounds.

We shall continue, in succeeding numbers of this journal, to make such extracts from publications bearing on the Mining and Railroad interests, as we may deem useful or acceptable to those who are interested in these two several important enterprises.

"Having," commences our author, "visited the mining region the past season, having neglected no means in my power to ascertain the truth or falsity of the statements, and of my suspicions as to that, by many imagined, 'El Dorado' of the North, having taken great pains and labour to arrive at local facts, under the recollection of the 'many grains of allowance' with which I had received the best authenticated statements myself, having no interest of name or nature in the effect my statements may produce, except that in common with all other citizens, in an early and prompt development of these internal resources of our country which will leave us independent of foreign supplies, I comply with the wishes of many acquaintances, who desire the information I have obtained, too lengthily in detail for the frequent repetition necessary to gratify personal friends only, by this publication of facts as I found them, without 'fear or favour,' 'nothing extenuating, or ought set down in malice.'"

I am impelled by this publication, too, not more that the truth and real merits of the country may be known, than to show, by such deductions as the careful reader will make, that "all is not gold that glitters." The realities are sufficient (and to this end must we come at last,) to insure all that should be desirable to accomplish, except the ulterior objects of those whose "business fabrics of the brain" must fall, and visionary schemes, in the end, "come home to roost."

Upon the capitalist is the dependence for the necessary means of developing our mineral resources, and upon correct information only can he be expected to furnish it. Overwrought and gilded statements, through whose glossing the careful and discreet man sees their hollowness, may deceive many and accomplish the ends of some, but will also retard or prevent great results, which candour and truth might have produced, but for the doubts which discovered duplicity throw in the way of investigation.

Coagulated capital has been necessary in all countries and times for the development of mineral resources. Nature, in her organization of matter, decried it "when the waters covered the face of the earth"; and as much as she has favoured this region over all others with her mineral wealth, there is also, as elsewhere, written upon it, "Thou shalt eat thy bread by the sweat of thy brow." Abundant and pure as are our lead and iron, our copper is not less so; and if there is one fact which characterizes the bounty of nature to ours over the mineral of all other countries, it is that fact and peculiarity of our Lake Superior native copper, that it is in no instance

contaminated with alloys of other metals. The assertion of this fact, when made by Dr. Houghton, was treated as a burlesque by scientific men at home and abroad, who called it "backwoods mineralogy."

His representations as to the great abundance of copper indicated by "surface appearances," were treated as "new country stories" and Dr. Houghton, smarting under the ridicule, pursued his researches for ten successive years before his reports elicited any public attention. He has gone down to his grave in those depths, though immeasurable, and upon a rock, though unseen, which he knew and could determine in his system of philosophy as well as "if the waters rolled back" when he came to their margin. He has gone, too, in the day when that future he had so long and confidently anticipated was come, which, by its developments, was about to consummate the silent but prevailing ambition of fifteen years of toil, leaving one point only fully established, that the accepted systems of geology and mineralogy are in many particulars inapplicable to the scene of his labours, of which the above is one proof.

True it is, and lamentable too, that wild and exaggerated, not to say entirely false, statements have been made of mineral wealth there, to be heaped together without labour or means, which could not fail suddenly to enrich the fortunate holder of a few shares of some particular stock.

Between the extremes the capitalist must designate, or nothing can be done in bringing out the wealth of such mines as do exist and have a value. Many have already embarked, but nothing like a number adequate to the field presented. Extreme caution is not a fault, but often loses what investigation and promptness would have garnered.

Lead is worked, and many fortunes have been made in its production. Copper must be worked in the same manner. The mining is the same, the smelting differs; but copper ore is worth vastly more than lead, while the cost of mining is about the same. This reduces the whole subject to one or two questions, viz.: Is there copper ore as stated? and, Where are its locations? These questions the reader will find answered in the following pages; and if he will read them carefully, and qualify himself, as he may, by their contents, he will be able to determine correctly between propositions now or hereafter made for investment, which are real, and which are "kiting." If he is too much engaged to do this, but goes in, hap-hazard, he may hand down at his death, some "shares" which had long before formed fellowship with North-Carolina "gold stock."

To the traveller for pleasure, let me say a few words. When you shall have read the round upon which I have taken the coaster, you will probably shrink from the toils of following the shore, and wish to go direct and quick from place to place, or tarry a time at one place, and then go to another. In either case, there will be every provision next season: a steambot, large, staunch, commodious, and safe; a propeller, with all these qualities also; and a number of very convenient schooners, as will be seen by the list of vessels on Lake Superior. If you are in pur-