

entitled, *The Metallic Wealth of the United States described and compared with that of other Countries*, by D. J. Whitney :—

"A number of localities were formerly explored and worked to some extent "on Michipicoten Island and on the north-eastern side of the lake, but they are now "abandoned.

"The *Quebec and Lake Superior Mining Association* commenced operations in '1846 at 'Pointe aux Mines,' Mica Bay, on a vein said to be two feet wide and "rich in grey sulphuret of copper.

"An adit was driven 200 feet, three shafts sunk, and the ten fathoms level "commenced, and after £30,000 had been expended, it seems to have been dis- "covered that there was no ore to smelt, and the works were abandoned."

It may be seen by these quotations that this author has been anxious not to pass over in silence the mines in Canada, and that he wished to do justice by giving a true description of what he saw.

How painful it is to find that the author of the work in question has only been able to bear witness as regards the Canadian mines, to that abuse of confidence by dishonest persons who have been the principal cause of the great losses which our Companies have sustained. It is also annoying to find that this author was unable to obtain any information whatever as to the existence of native copper, not only in veins but in different rocks of greywacke, red sandstone, &c., with characteristics, not adventitious but proving the genuine richness and the formation of the native copper, &c.

To what then are we to attribute this complete ignorance as to the state, position, and importance of the mines on the Canadian side? For more than ten years have associations been in existence, and their capital employed for the purpose of opening out the riches of the country. Any one might with justice assert that this is one of the greatest proofs of the mineral poverty of the soil. How then happens it, that at all the World's Exhibitions, we receive such high praise for the specimens of every sort of metal, and that there are few countries which can present such abundant collections, so diversified in their species and nature? Up to the present time we can show no complete work upon the position, direction, or importance of the mines, nothing approaching the kind of description published, not only in France, in England, or in any of the old nations, but even among our neighbours, who are in possession of full details respecting their mines, even in cases where their discovery dates long after ours.

I think that it is the duty of the Government, for the interest of the country and of science, so soon as mines are discovered, to cause charts to be published, shewing the nature of the soil, and the character of the metalliferous strata, and giving all possible information with respect to the localities, so that in after years after more minute investigation, there may be at least incontestable proof of the progress of these researches, and the existence of the mines may be generally known. By the adoption of these means the public credit might be husbanded, and the interests of the country protected.

With respect to the interests of the mines on Lake Superior, I cannot omit to mention the fact that neither the Companies nor individuals have any protection whatever, they have no legal means of protecting their interests. Very often the Director of a Company after having made arrangements with workmen for a certain description of labor, after immense sacrifices, is abandoned by his men at the commencement of the work; and, in order to procure others, he is subjected to the same sacrifices, and liable to see his workmen again abandon him.

Permit me to append to this report, letters from different persons whom I met at the mines, they will give you more detailed information.

Since the completion of the Canal on the American side, between Lake Superior and Lake Huron, the town of Sault St. Marie has made rapid progress. The