

which separated the ore from the rock and poured it forth, literally in a stream, golden as the river Pactolus. I never saw anything more wonderful than this river of liquid gold. A little phial held to the mouth of one of the taps became just a bottle of gold in solution. By adding hydrochlorate of iron the gold is precipitated in about seventy hours, and the water can be drained off pure as crystal, without a vestige of gold remaining in it. The gold itself is then mixed with borax, put through a further smelting-process, and ultimately comes out in solid nuggets, worth, according to the purity of the gold, from £300 to £400 each.

The Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company possess probably the most productive gold mine in the world. The original discoverers of the ore, and the individuals who supplied the slender amount of capital with which the company commenced operations, have realized great fortunes.

We returned, after an interesting journey, and went on board the *Sunbeam*, and in spite of the heavy rain in the afternoon a great many ladies came to see the yacht, and were followed later by the Naval Artillery Volunteers, the Naval Brigade, and other visitors. After a hasty dinner at seven, we all went to an Ambulance Meeting in the council-chamber of the town hall. From the meeting we went straight on to the station, where the servants had rigged up very comfortable beds in railway carriages.

*Wednesday, August 3rd.*—Our arrival at Springsure caused great excitement, for it was really the opening of the line, ours being the first passenger train to arrive at the township. We started in a couple of buggies for the opal-mines, or rather opal-fields, of Springsure. When the top of the hill where the opals are to be found was reached, we all got out and set to work to pick up large and heavy stones with traces of opal in them, as well as some fragments of pumicestone with the same glittering indications. We were shown the remnants of a rock which had been blown up with dynamite to get at a magnificent opal firmly imbedded in it. The experiment resulted in rock, opal, and all being blown into fragments, and nothing more has ever been seen of the precious stone. Our search not proving very successful, we proceeded to the large sheep-station of Rainworth. The question of water becomes a serious consideration out here, where every full-grown beast is supposed to drink and waste ten gallons of water a day.

Years ago this country swarmed with game, and was so eaten up that the ground looked as bare as your hand, the pasture being undistinguishable from the roads. By a strenuous effort