

the intention of bettering his condition. They went out again last July with \$52,000. I was well acquainted with this man, a very decent, intelligent man. He told me one day that if he could remain in this country from three to five years and go out with \$5,000 he would consider himself lucky. He has gone out with \$52,000, and after the prospecting he has done, a little in the middle and at the end of the claim, he believes that he has \$500,000 there.

On the other hand, however, a Scotchman named Marks has been in there for 11 years. I had known him well, and once last Fall when he was sick I asked him how long he had been mining. His reply was 42 years—in all parts of the world, except Australia. In reply to the question as to whether he had ever made his stake, he had never yet made more than a living, and very often that was a scanty one. This, of course, is the opposite extreme. I could quote scores of cases similar to that, so that I would not have you look too much on the bright side.

There are men in that country who are poor, and who will remain so. It has not been their "luck," as they call it, to strike it rich. But I may say that that country offers to men of great fortitude and some intelligence and steadiness an opportunity to make more money in a given time than they possibly could make anywhere else. You have, of course, a good deal to contend with; your patience will be sorely tried, for the conditions are so unique that they have surprised many who have gone in and they have left in disgust.

SALOONS AND MINERS' MEETINGS.

When I was in that country first, everything was well regulated and orderly, the miners attended to their business; they did not know anyone, and if a man kept himself pretty fair in his dealings there was no danger of trouble, but a few years afterwards saloons came into vogue, and many of the old miners stayed around them all day. The saloon-keepers were their partners, and miners' meetings began to be recognised, which were attended by the saloon-keepers and the loafers. They carried things just to please themselves, and great injustice was sometimes the result. As a consequence of these decisions miners' meetings came